LEMIRA OF LORRAINE.

A Romance.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

I sing of knights and ladies gentle deeds,
Whose praises having slept in silence long,
Me all too meane the sacred Muse areeds
To blazon broade emongst her learned throng:
Fierce warres and faithful loves shall moralize my song.
FAERY QUEENE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR G. AND W. B. WHITTAKER,
AVE MARIA LANE.

1822.

C. Whittingham, Chiswick.



LEMIRA OF LORRAINE.

CHAPTER I.

That very time I saw (but thou couldst not),
Flying between the cold moon and the earth,
Cupid all arm'd: a certain aim he took
At a fair vestal, throned by the west;
And loosed his love-shaft smartly from his bow;
As it should pierce a hundred thousand hearts:
But I might see young Cupid's fiery shaft
Quench'd in the chaste beams of the watery
moon;
And the imperial votress passed on,
In maiden meditation, fancy free.

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

THE Abbé, who was no stranger to the leading features of D'Amarie's character, and who could not reconcile his vindictive conduct with the

of meekness inculcated by the religion of which he was himself a professor, received Mellidor's persecutor with great coolness; and, slightly waving his hand towards a chair, awaited in silence the communication of his business.

Awed by the dignified manner of the Abbé, D'Amarie stammered out something like an apology for the intrusion of his visit; but, quickly recovering his accustomed assurance, he proceeded to inform Fleurville that he came for the purpose of preparing the Vicomte de Valmire for his trial, which was fixed to take place on the following day. The parliament, he said, could wait no longer for the further reestablishment of the young nobleman's health; whose recovery, he ·d, seemed to be purposely re- d, to exhaust the patience of who were anxious to promote

the cause of justice. Anger, with every other unkindly passion, had long been banished from the mild bosom of the teacher of christianity; but a blush of insulted integrity passed over his cheek, as he answered.

"By this injurious supposition you tacitly accuse both the Vicomte and the respectable surgeon, who attends him, of conspiring to defraud the laws; but you have yet to learn that baseness is a stranger to the breast of Valmire! Armed with the consciousness of innocence, if every impediment to escape were removed, he would yet refuse to avail himself of the means offered to him of flight; and would be content to live only when the tribunal of his country had pronounced him guiltless. Confident as to the happy result of his trial, and that he will es[illegible] unhurt from the toils of the subtil[illegible] which has been wound around

also am contented that he should await the sentence of the parliament. But these are sentiments which you cannot understand," he added, observing D'Amarie gazing on him with idiotic wonder, " and, therefore, I have only to say, that the Vicomte will be ready to appear before the parliament, as soon as his surgeon declares that a removal will no longer be productive of danger to him." D'Amarie appeared impatient to speak; but the Abbé put a period to the conversation by ringing the bell, and ordering the servant, who answered the summons, to conduct Mon. D'Amarie to the gate.

When the door closed on his tormenting visitor, Fleurville was left to converse with his own melancholy ghts, which were scarcely less l to him than the presence of welcome intruder. Forbidden

by the rules of his profession to enjoy those nearer affinities which the marriage state supplies, all the love that he could spare from Heaven was bestowed on Mellidor. To attend to the cultivation of his understanding, to "teach the young idea how to shoot," to implant principles of virtue in his mind, had been Fleurville's easy and delightful office. This cherished being, who was not indeed indebted to him for existence but who owed to him all that could render that existence desirable, he had left happy, in the possession of health, youth, hope, and innocence; and he found him, after the expiration of a few months, the victim of remorse, with a body worn by disease, with a mind drooping under calamity, and with death—the ignominious death of a scaffold, in near prospect, to terminate his worldly care[illegible] "O, my beloved Mellidor! son of [illegible] love!" he exclaimed, "little did [illegible]

pect to find thee thus!" But no impatience mingled with his affliction: his chastened mind bent with submission to the will of the Most High; and, should he be able to discover that his young friend had been governed by some imperious and fatal accident, and, although his hand had erred, that his heart was free from blame, the Abbé thought that he could resign himself with fortitude to the disappointment of all his earthly hopes, and calmly prepare to lay his head in Mellidor's grave.

His solitude was soon interrupted by the surgeon, who was surprised on visiting Mellidor to find, that though his mental anguish did not appear to be diminished, the goodness of his constitution had triumphed over his disease, and that his wound was rapidly healing. This intelligence, which under any other circumstances would

have been received by Fleurville with delight, now only increased his grief: he explained, however, the cause of his dejection by relating D'Amarie's visit, and the eagerness displayed by him to hasten the Vicomte's trial. This account sensibly affected the benevolent surgeon; whose esteem Mellidor had gained by the sweetness of his manners, and the uncomplaining patience with which he sustained his sufferings. The Abbé and surgeon, though both possessed of good hearts and principles of strict integrity, yet essentially differed in their opinions and sentiments; for, while Fleurville regarded duels with the abhorrence of a religious mind, Abbeville thought the supposed provocation sufficient to exonerate Mellidor from the imputation of guilt; and, concluding that a full disclosure of all the circumstances would be made at the trial, he entertained very little doubt respecting the

result. When, however, he learnt that the young nobleman's beloved and respected preceptor had not received any information either from himself or the Princess on the subject, his surprise was extreme, and he began to fear that Mellidor's life would be sacrificed to false delicacy. All that he knew he immediately communicated to the Abbé. His knowledge, however, only extended to Melanie's attachment to Villeron previously to her marriage with Mellidor, and to the events which occurred in that disastrous night after the conclusion of the combat; but he confessed his ignorance of the circumstances attending its commencement. He then offered to employ his services in any way which might most effectually conduce to the elucidation of this still mysterious business. It was agreed between them that Abbeville should give his evidence to this effect on the

trial, for which Valmire was to be prepared by Fleurville; and that the indulgence of confinement in his present abode should be requested of the parliament, during the few days which must intervene before he appeared in the assembled chambers.

Melanie's complaint was gradually yielding to the methods employed for its removal, and her mind appeared to have recovered a greater degree of composure than could have been expected from the former violence of her feelings: but Lemira would not yet withdraw her accustomed attentions, nor resign her place by Melanie's bed to any one who might occupy it with less care and vigilance than herself. Through the medium of imagination the Princess often saw Melanie's frenzied countenance, when, with an uplifted sword, she stood by the side of Mellidor's bed; and she

was frequently startled from a short and unrefreshing slumber by repeating the shriek then uttered by the hapless maniac. A secret and involuntary terror continually pursued her lest Melanie should again attempt the life of her husband. In vain she represented to herself that derangement alone had prompted the guilty act, and should form its excuse to every reflecting mind. In the recesses of her own bosom she effectually concealed the bitter workings of her soul; for Melanie was still subject to violent paroxysms of grief and remorse, and her reason was still tottering on its throne.

Time, which stays not its rapid wing to prolong the pleasures or to retard the miseries of the greatest or wisest among mankind, too soon brought round the day which was to decide the fate of the young and

unfortunate Mellidor. The sun, as if in mockery of the woes it viewed, shone forth with peculiar splendor; the little birds carolled their songs of gladness; the flowers, wet with the morning dew, perfumed the air with their delicious fragrance: all irrational nature seemed to revel in the enjoyment of happiness, while the hearts of some of the noblest works of Heaven were wrung by anguish and harassed with anxiety.

Melanie was still enjoying the cessation of all her griefs in a profound slumber, when Lemira arose; and, opening the window of her dressing-room, she beheld the smiling face of nature, and shuddered at a sight so little in unison with the present state of her mind. She had been informed by Fleurville that the trial was to take place on that day; and, when she gazed on the bright luminary which

was suspended above her head, and thought that Mellidor's sun might set in darkness before she could again behold this glorious orb rise above the horizon, she clasped her hands together, and raised her streaming eyes to Heaven in silent supplication. She wept for the uncertain fate of a young and generous fellow creature, to whom she felt grateful for the preservation of her father's life; and to whose timely assistance she was also indebted for her own. Her tears flowed from the sources of gratitude and humanity; for, by a long and arduous struggle, she had conquered her new-born attachment to Mellidor, and had ceased to think of him except as the husband of Melanie. Accustomed, as she had always been, to trace her feelings to their actuating principle, she now probed the inmost recesses of her soul, and found that no feeling of selfish regret, no sentiment, which

she should blush to avow, mingled with her sacred grief for the miseries of her friend and benefactor.

Lemira had constantly attended the breakfast table since the arrival of Fleurville, happy in the opportunity thus afforded her of gathering from his lips those precepts of wisdom and piety which fortified and improved her mind. Unwilling to make any change in her plans, which might discover more uneasiness than she wished to avow, she followed the servant who announced breakfast, and was prepared to go through the interview with the Abbé without the exhibition of any extraordinary agitation: but, as the domestic threw open the door, her composure was put to flight on beholding Valmire reclining upon a couch near an unclosed window, and oppósite to the door at which she had entered. On this occasion she evinced

that even her great mind was not always proof against the sudden emotion of surprise; for, as she had not seen him since the night on which her critical arrival had arrested Melanie's frantic arm, she had no expectation of meeting him on a day so peculiarly eventful as was the present. As her cheeks and lips were instantly overspread with a deathlike paleness, Fleurville, fearing that she was going to faint, presented her with a glass of water, and concealed her from Mellidor's view until her agitation had subsided. The reward of his delicate consideration was a smile of ineffable sweetness; nor did many moments elapse before Lemira was able to advance to meet Mellidor, and to give him her hand without any visible emotion.

During breakfast she could not help silently remarking his extreme languor,

which appeared, however, the result of bodily indisposition rather than of weakness of the mind; for his brow was serene, and a smile sometimes passed rapidly over his lips, and he even attempted to introduce conversation, though she observed that he led it to serious and religious topics. Fleurville's affectionate arguments and his lessons of pure wisdom had removed the excess of Mellidor's too scrupulous remorse, and he could now reflect, not without anguish indeed, but without despair on the state to which he was reduced. The Abbé, however, still saw that the barbed arrow rankled in his heart, though it was imperceptible to the eye of a common observer; and to Lemira's noble mind his efforts to appear tranquil, and to prevent others from participating in his misfortunes, was far more heart-rending than the wildest

lamentations. Being, therefore, unable longer to restrain her feelings she hastily arose, and retired to the solitude of her own apartment.

Suspense is perhaps the greatest misery of which a strong mind is susceptible; and Lemira felt, that almost any certainty would be less painful than the solicitude that harassed her, as, pacing to an fro with hurried steps, she considered all the circumstances of Mellidor's conduct, and knew not whether to condemn or to acquit him—"But this day," she exclaimed with emotion, "this day will decide the important question of life or death; and will discover whether he is an unprincipled duellist, or the spotless victim of an unfortunate fatality."

A sound of descending steps now

reached her ear; the heavy iron gate swung on its hinges; it again closed, and the receding wheels of a carriage were heard to roll away.

"He is gone," she cried in accents of the deepest anguish, "and may the great Father of Mercies dispose the hearts of the judges to find the unhappy prisoner innocent of crime?"

The Princess now sunk into a seat overwhelmed with distress. Her mind was replete with visions of horror, and her imagination, becoming unusually excited, presented to her Mellidor ascending the scaffold: he bows his head; the axe descends, and with one stroke severs the head from the body! She views the spouting blood, the lifeless eyeball, the quivering lip, "Save him, oh Heaven!" she cries, "it is tóo late!"

The violent start, which accompanied this exclamation, recalled her wandering ideas; and, awaking from her dreadful trance, she found her forehead covered with the cold dews of death, and her whole frame chilled and convulsed with the terrific visions of her distempered fancy. She arose to seek in occupation a relief for the agonies of her mind. She struck her harp; but the strings only uttered a harsh and discordant sound: she opened a book; her eye wandered over the page, but her mind was with the assembled chambers at Dijon. At last she thought of Melanie: but her shuddering mind revolted when she recollected that Melanie was the cause of all her present miseries, and of all Valmire's misfortunes! Lemira remembered, however, that her sufferings were proportioned to her guilt; and, conquering her repugnance, she

entered the room, where she found Melanie, restless indeed, and agitated, but in possession of a much greater degree of tranquillity than Lemira could reasonably have expected from the state of her own feelings.

CHAP. II.

Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit;
For 'tis a throne where honor may be crown'd
Sole monarch of the universal world.

SHAKSPEARE.

WHEN the noble prisoner approached the hall of justice, the curiosity to behold him was so great, that the body of armed men, who preceded the carriage, could with difficulty disperse the crowd sufficiently to allow the vehicle to drive to the door; and, as he descended the steps, his fine commanding figure, his noble countenance, and the expression of deep suffering visible in his person, interested the spectators: but when he entered the

hall, the judges were prepared to administer justice in the strictest manner, without permitting themselves to be biased by Mellidor's rank, character, or appearance.

The advocate employed by D'Amarie now opened the pleadings, and stated in flowing language that Mon. Villeron had been spending the evening with a friend at Dijon, and was returning quietly to his own house, when he was met by the Vicomte de Valmire, who immediately attacked him: that in self defence he was obliged to draw his sword, and pierced Mon. de Valmire before he received the wound which put a period to his life. He acknowledged that this account was taken from the deposition of the dying man, who could not be supposed capable of committing the dreadful crime of perjury, at a moment so awful even to those who are the best prepared to

meet it. Here Mellidor shuddered, and his face was overspread with a deadly paleness, which his enemies attributed to the consciousness of guilt, and Fleurville to the alarming state of his health; but neither of them suspected that his emotion was occasioned by the horror of finding that a man, who was on the point of appearing before his Maker, could burden his soul with the deliberate guilt of a false oath. The orator, however, proceeded to say that all those facts could be proved by circumstantial evidence, and added, "Though the friends of the unfortunate Villeron are neither sufficiently rich to purchase justice for the murder of their beloved relative, nor sufficiently powerful to command it, yet when I consider the persons who surround me, their enlightened minds, and their principles of strict integrity, I feel confidently assured that they will administer justice as impartially

to the poor and humble citizen as to the powerful and haughty nobleman. Represent to yourselves the respectable friends of Villeron, assembled round the social board, in momentary expectation of his arrival: the jest, the laugh went round; when suddenly their mirth was interrupted, and was quickly succeeded by the deepest despair as they beheld the bleeding and mangled body of their expected associate borne into the room! Imagine their affliction when they traced his death to the infuriated and ruffianlike attack of a stranger, who braved the laws of humanity and his country, secure of obtaining his pardon by the influence of rank and the partial favor of a court."

This speech being concluded, the surgeon, who attended Villeron, was called upon to give his testimony. He confirmed many of the facts which were before stated by the advocate,

and swore that the wound, which Mon. Villeron received on the night when he was carried into St. Amand's house, was the cause of his death; and that this wound was inflicted by Mon. Valmire, he had learnt from the deposition of Villeron, and also from the Vicomte's own lips; who, in the first moments of remorse, had confessed himself guilty of the murder of which he was accused.

When the evidence for the prosecution had closed, a deeper shade hung on Fleurville's expressive brow: but Mellidor, who had preserved an unclouded serenity of countenance, was next called upon for his defence; and all those, who were interested in the event, pressed forward with anxious curiosity to catch the important words as they should fall from his lips.

Great then was the surprise and disappointment of the expecting au-

dience, when he arose, and said, "That, though he should still be unfortunate enough to remain under the imputation of guilt, imperious circumstances forbade him to enter into any explanations, calculated to efface the erroneous impression which the court had received from the nature of the evidence, and the eloquence of the pleader. He then bowed to the court and remained silent, until the judge demanded, "Are you then innocent of the crime with which you have been charged?"

"I have been the unfortunate cause of Mon. Villeron's death," replied the prisoner; "but, as I am not at liberty to enter into the detail of those circumstances which occasioned the perpetration of the dreadful deed, I request that I may be spared the necessity of evading questions, to which it would be impossible for me to re-

ply directly, without incurring the guilt of treachery and dishonor."

Condemned by his own confession, D'Amarie's party ceased not to urge the judge to pronounce his condemnation: but this merciful magistrate, hoping that Mon. Abbeville's and Bernard's evidence might place the facts in a more favorable point of view for Mellidor, ordered them to be called into the hall. No further information, however, could be gathered from their testimony, than that the attachment, which the physician declared had subsisted between Villeron and Melanie, by giving Valmire's crime a motive, rendered its commission more probable; and, while the hearts of the audience were obliged to blame the man, they could not refrain from feeling compassion for the injuries of the husband. Actuated by these sentiments the judges determined to de-

lay the sentence of condemnation until the following day; and, during this interval, they ordered the Vicomte to be conveyed to a private room in the prison; whither he was accompanied by his faithful friend, the Abbé de Fleurville.

Lemira was still in Melanie's apartment exerting all the fortitude of her great mind to controll its anxious perturbation, when a servant entered and presented her with a sealed letter, on which Melanie's eyes were instantly and intently fixed. The momentary suspension of Lemira's throbbing heart gave her a sensation of faintness that rendered her for a few moments incapable of breaking the seal: but this suspense was too replete with distressing images not to be quickly terminated by a rapid perusal of this short, but important note,

the contents of which diffused over the face of the lovely orphan the cold, pale hue of agony; while the varying crimson on Melanie's cheek, and the fitful flashing of her eye evinced her anxiety to be informed of the cause of the Princess's emotion.

" The trial is finished at length," she said.

" And what has been the result of the Vicomte's testimony?" inquired Melanie, and then added with excessive agitation; " What new circumstances has he betrayed, and whom has he accused?"

Lemira regarded her for a few minutes with fixed and surprised attention, and then replied, " Nothing that can conduce to the exculpation of the unhappy Valmire; nothing that can prevent the stigma of guilt from at-

taching to his reputation; nothing, I fear, that can preserve a life so valuable to his friends, his sister, and his country."

She now again raised her eyes to Melanie's face, and was astonished to perceive that her countenance had resumed its placid expression, and that no traces remained of its late violent emotion. Horror-struck at this apparent insensibility to the fate of a being whom she had so deeply injured, and, urged by her own indignant feelings, Lemira exclaimed, "Is it possible, Melanie! that you can behold with indifference the fatal destiny of a man, who has been united to you at the altar by the strictest ties of love and duty; and who has been reduced to his present fearful situation by your gross violation of these sacred vows?"

The deep crimson of passion reani-

mated Melanie's burning cheek: her eyes shone with unnatural brightness while she exclaimed, " Valmire was never the husband of my love or my choice, but was forced on my acceptance by my father; and a vain ceremony gave him my hand, while my heart he has widowed, and laid low in Villeron's grave! His arm has robbed me of the charm which made life desirable: let his haughty head, therefore, be humbled in the dust, and let my adored Henri be avenged."

The Princess now blushed: she blushed, that woman's pride should be so abased; that woman's tenderness should be so perverted; that woman's virtue should be so degraded.

Believing that Melanie's repentance had been as sincere as its expression was violent, Lemira had sought to impart peace to the wounded mind of the mourner, and had attended her, if

not with all the officiousness of love, with the judicious and enlightened piety of a Christian: but this high souled girl had yet to learn that no excellent or disinterested feeling could long retain possession of Melanie's breast, from whence it was soon to be banished by the indulgence of ill regulated and violent passions.

Lemira's figure seemed to expand with the emotions of offended virtue, and her countenance assumed that peculiar expression of severity and loftiness which Melanie could never behold unabashed.

"I have been greatly deceived in you, Melanie! fearfully deceived; and now find, that, when I supposed your misfortunes had corrected your heart, my judgment greatly erred: when I thought you capable of a disinterested and noble sacrifice to save the life of

a fellow creature, I estimated your character far, very far above its value; and when I imagined that your soul would be distracted with remorse at the spectacle of the misery that you had caused, I attributed a feeling to your mind to which it is a stranger. But persist in your unnatural revenge! Proceed with your work of cruelty! Too soon will your vengeance be satisfied: too soon will the stroke descend, which, by depriving Mellidor of life, will also deprive you of the power of atonement; and when you behold the bleeding corse of him whom you have murdered, then, perhaps, your too tardy repentance will be felt only to render the remaining years of your existence more deeply overshaded with misery."

She now moved to depart; when Melanie, starting from the couch, threw herself at the feet of the Prin-

cess, and, catching hold of her robe, exclaimed, " Oh, leave me not thus with that look of scorn and resentment! Oh thou being, superior to the frailty which has destroyed me! pity my weakness, pity my distress, and forgive the wretched creature who supplicates for mercy!"

" Say then, is it in your power to save the life of the Vicomte de Valmire?"

" It is."

" Then why do you hesitate to perform an act of justice and of mercy? an act which would diffuse round your heart the sunshine of happiness, and restore to your conscience the soft balm of peace."

" No!" answered Melanie, after a moment's pause, " on these terms I

cannot regain your esteem; for never will I reveal those circumstances which can alone exculpate Valmire from guilt."

With a look of horror Lemira now gently, but firmly withdrew her robe from Melanie's grasp, and instantly quitted the room.

Lemira went to send to the noble prisoner and his venerable friend the only comfort which she was now able to bestow on them, a basket containing wine, fruit, and ices, to refresh them after the heat and fatigues of the court; and, as she saw the servant depart with her present, she fervently, but silently wished, that hers was the power which Melanie possessed of imparting consolation to their afflicted minds. She now wept that all her efforts had been ineffectual to extort from Melanie the confessions which she supposed would

exonerate Mellidor; and deeply she lamented the too certain fate of this young man, the victim, as she thought, of his own false honor and of his consort's cruelty. But soft and sweet were the tears she shed, calm and holy was the grief she felt, when compared to the wild frenzy which agitated Melanie's soul, and shook her beauteous frame, when Lemira's departure left her in solitary possession of her own apartment. With frantic violence she struck her snowy breast, and tore the shining ringlets of her auburn hair, while she exclaimed, "Never, never! will I blacken the memory of Henri by divulging his crimes: never will I consent to suffer my name, hitherto without reproach, to be branded in a court of justice, and held up to the bitter scorn of the world! No! better would it be that death should end at once my crimes and my life!"

But when the thought of the additional guilt which she would incur by suffering Mellidor to be executed; when she reflected on the self-devotement of this ill-fated being; his honorable silence, at a moment so eventful to himself, she shuddered at her own baseness and temerity, and almost determined to sacrifice her reputation to his preservation. These generous feelings were soon, however, effaced by her love for Villeron, which, returning with all its former violence, presented to her memory his bleeding body: his last groans again sounded in her ear, and, wildly shrieking, she threw herself on her knees and impiously vowed never to forgive Mellidor; or to suffer a word, that could avert his death, to pass her lips. It is the nature of passion to exhaust itself; and Melanie now found her body and mind so much enfeebled by the exertions which both had sus-

tained, that she sunk on a couch, overcome by weakness; and fell into a sullen and dejected calm.

The sable wing of night conveyed no alleviation to the sorrows of the noble orphans; but the hours of darkness were, by the object of their griefs, partly employed in solemn acts of devotion, and partly in calm and confidential intercourse with the Abbé; who would not for a moment quit the gloomy mansion which was now the habitation of his friend. They had been conversing on the subject of Rosalie, when the Vicomte added, "If sentence of death should be pronounced on me to-morrow, to your paternal care I bequeath my dear and lovely sister. Her mind, pure as the mountain snow; her heart glowing with the warmest affections, and charmed with the simplest pleasures, require to be improved by the instruc-

tion of the wise, and regulated by the experience of the aged. The unfortunate circumstances of my situation have compelled me to allow her to remain with her mother since the death of her other parent: but oh, my revered friend! withdraw her innocence, I implore you, from the contagion of this pernicious example, as speedily as may be consistent with that delicacy and humanity which I should always wish to be preserved towards the widow of my father; for when Rosalie's present and future happiness are at stake, and, when perhaps the hours of my life are already numbered, it would be madness to dissemble that the Vicomtesse is wholly unworthy of being intrusted with the moral and religious education of her child."

He was here interrupted by one of the keepers of the prison, who presented to him a basket directed to the

"Abbé de Fleurville and his noble friend."

"This acceptable present," exclaimed the Abbé, "proceeds from the considerate kindness of the Princess of Lorraine. It is wonderful how gracefully her elevated mind descends to those minute attentions which form the charm and the comfort of private life."

"Ah!" said Mellidor, "if my more fortunate destiny had united me to this noble Princess, how different would have been my situation?" An expression of surprise from Fleurville induced Mellidor to disclose to him the most secret thoughts of his heart: the high raised hopes, which had entered his mind, only to be instantly repulsed, the visions of ambitious love which had floated over his brain; the prospect of an extended sphere of

action, in which he might discharge the most important duties and acquire the laurels of glory; all these day-dreams of the soul, which were born only to die, did Mellidor repose in the faithful bosom of his venerable preceptor; and then added,

"When in compliance with my father's wishes, and to rescue my Rosalie from the walls of a convent, I united myself to the daughter of St. Amand, all my expectations of future greatness and usefulness were resigned; all my hopes of happiness proceeding from an union of minds were extinct: but passion had not so completely taken possession of my heart as to render its banishment impossible. I made a vigorous effort to regain my independence of mind, and succeeded in the attempt; and, had the unhappy Melanie been worthy of my esteem, I should have acquired for her that af-

fection, which I am incapable of withholding from those who rely upon my tenderness and support."

In this interesting discourse the hours passed away unheeded; until at last they recollected that it would be necessary for them to take some repose to repair their exhausted strength for the business of the ensuing day; and, throwing themselves on their beds, they enjoyed the blessings of refreshing sleep until the morning.

The sun, penetrating through the grated windows of the prison, awoke its inhabitants from their slumbers; and, Mellidor had scarcely completed his dressing, when the iron door creaked on its hinges, and the guard entered to inform him that every thing was prepared for his reception in the hall of justice. When he entered the court, he found the judges already in

their places; and, on looking around him, he could distinguish Villeron's friends by the eager joy with which they seemed to anticipate the result of the trial; while the deep dejection of those, who loved and esteemed him, too certainly convinced him, that he must now resign every hope of pardon, and prepare his mind to receive the sentence of condemnation with firmness.

There was a momentary pause before the solemn words of life or death fell on the expecting ear of the audience, which was difficult to bear, and yet might be less dreadful than the certainty by which it was to be succeeded. As the judge was rising to speak, a sudden noise at the lower end of the hall arrested his attention; and it was instantly explained by the entrance of one of the servants of the parliament conducting a young wo-

man, who urgently requested permission to give her evidence in the cause now before the court. Having been allowed to speak, she said, that her name was Lindane Rosigné, and that she had lived in the family of the late Mons. St. Amand for many years. She then proceeded distinctly to relate all those circumstances, which have been already detailed in this narrative, respecting her lady and Villeron; and added, that, on the night of the Vicomte's return, Mon. Villeron had quitted Melanie earlier than usual; and that, in consequence of having found the garden gate unlocked on the preceding morning, which she thought might create suspicions in the other servants, she had followed him unperceived for the purpose of fastening it; that, as the moon shone with peculiar brightness, she became alarmed lest he should suspect that she watched his actions, and therefore concealed

herself behind a tree, from whence she clearly distinguished the scene which ensued; that she heard the words employed by the Vicomte, and saw, before his sword was drawn from the scabbard, Mon. Villeron plunge his weapon into the Vicomte's breast. She ended her minute and faithful evidence by solemnly declaring, that nothing should have induced her to betray her mistress, but her horror on learning that Mon. Valmire would be condemned to die for committing murder, when she knew that he only unsheathed his sword in self-defence. The astonishment of the court at this unexpected discovery exceeded all bounds; and Mellidor, when he was called upon to declare if the circumstances of his combat with Villeron, as stated by Lindane, were correct, perceiving that all further attempts at concealment would be fruitless, replied, that she had related them with

the fidelity and precision of an eye-witness.

" Why then did you not bring forward these facts, when called upon by the court, for your defence?"

" I was bound by a sacred promise, yielded by me in a moment of weak compassion, to conceal those circumstances, which the testimony of another has now faithfully revealed."

In pronouncing the sentence of acquittal, the President added a high eulogium on the moderation, fortitude, and honorable feeling evinced by the Vicomte de Valmire through the whole of the unjust and ungenerous proceedings which had been instituted against him; and ended his speech by congratulating him on the happy result of the trial, which confirmed the

triumph of innocence over stratagem and intrigue!

While D'Amarie and his colleagues retired from the hall abashed and disconcerted by their recent defeat, Mellidor entered his carriage amid the joyous embraces of his friends, and the rapturous acclamations of the immense concourse of people, who were waiting without the doors in anxious expectation of the final decision of the court; and, no sooner did the report of Mellidor's innocence reach them, than they rent the air with shouts for the triumph of their favorite.

Mellidor, who had sustained the anticipation of a very different event, from that which now animated the cries of the multitude, without manifesting any particular emotion, threw himself into the carriage completely

overpowered by these professions of interest and affection; and, concealing his face with his hands, he continued for some minutes to indulge the tears which he could no longer suppress. Soon, however, recovering from this state of almost feminine weakness, he pressed Fleurville's hand in his; and, faintly smiling, he endeavoured to participate in the happiness of his friend, and to conceal from his affectionate eye, that the heart of his Mellidor could be subdued by the testimonies of kindness, although invulnerable to the shafts of adversity.

During the early part of the morning Lemira had been in constant expectation of a summons from Melanie to announce a change in the resolution, which she had taken, to allow Mellidor to suffer death on the scaffold, rather than to unloose his fetters by a

confession of her own and her lover's crimes. As no messenger of glad tidings, however, appeared to cheer with hope her sad and gloomy solitude, she determined to make a last effort to save his life: but when, with this humane intention, she applied at Melanie's door for admission, she was informed that she could not enter, as the Vicomtesse was suffering from indisposition. The haughty soul of the Princess recoiled from this artifice; but she saw, through its apparent unkindness, that indolence of character which shrunk from argument, and that obstinacy which would not yield to conviction. Her anxious meditations were, at length, interrupted by loud and repeated shouts, which were immediately succeeded by the sound of a carriage driving to the outer gate; and, when this unclosed, she heard the footsteps of two persons

ascend the stairs, and her attentive ear distinctly traced them until they entered the saloon.

" Oh Heaven!" she mentally exclaimed, " should he be found innocent!" and, with her hands clasped, her eyes raised upwards, her fine face pale as the Parian marble, she stood in silent but fervent supplication to that Being, who hears the prayers of innocence, to grant her fortitude to support the intelligence which she must soon receive. At length, unable to bear this state of prolonged and torturing uncertainty, she was proceeding into the gallery in quest of one of the servants, who might be in possession of that information which her anxiety made it necessary for her to acquire, when a door unclosed so slowly as to give her time to place herself in a situation from whence she could, unperceived, observe any person who

might issue from the saloon. One glance assured her that it was Mellidor; upon whose expressive countenance appeared the smile of benevolence and peace, though a shade of melancholy still quelled the lustre of his eye: but Lemira had seen enough to convince her that the awful sword of justice was no longer an object of terror to him; and she poured out her soul in thanksgiving to that beneficent Being, whose merciful goodness could alone have dispelled the dark cloud which threatened the fame and the life of Mellidor. Had any selfish thought mingled with the rejoicings of her great mind, she would have felt, that the obstacles, which separated her from the object of her prayers, were not removed by his restoration to liberty; and that, upon circumstances, unconnected with him, she must still depend for her happiness. But Lemira had been taught to consider

her own gratification only as a secondary object of existence; and that she had higher sources of enjoyment in the contemplation of the happiness which she might bestow, and of the duties which she might perform. No weak regret, therefore, at Mellidor's apparent indifference, or Mellidor's engagements, intruded to corrupt the pure course of her ideas, which was all bright, holy, and serene.

A gentle tap at the door now recalled her attention from her pious employment: it was the Abbé; who, with the chastened joy of a religious mind, recounted to her the events of the morning; and, dwelling with peculiar tenderness on the self-devotion and sense of honor displayed by his pupil, gave Lemira another subject of thanksgiving, in Mellidor's exemption from crime as well as from punishment.

"The Vicomte is now on his road to Paris," added Fleurville, "for the purpose of soliciting a dissolution of his marriage; for, after the disgraceful disclosure which has taken place this day, he cannot allow this unhappy woman to retain even the empty title of his wife: and upon me has devolved the painful task of acquainting her with his intentions, and of preparing her for their speedy accomplishment. I should, therefore, feel particularly thankful if your Highness would deign to instruct me in the mode of application, which may be the least likely to offend her pride or wound her feelings."

"As I have not seen Melanie to-day," answered Lemira, "I am ignorant whether she is informed of the result of the trial: but when she knows that her unfortunate situation is already made public, you will find her not op-

posed to a separation from the Vicomte; who never, it seems, was the object of her affection. I would advise you then to write a note, requesting permission to wait on her to adjust some business of importance; and, when the interview is granted, your own feelings will dictate to you the conduct to be adopted in this delicate affair."

In compliance with these directions a billet was despatched to Melanie, who, shortly returned an answer in the following words,

"The fallen and disgraced wife of the Vicomte de Valmire cannot consent to appear before those superior beings, who, strong in their own excellence, may deride and revile a creature so lost to virtue. If, therefore, the Abbé has aught to communicate which concerns this wretched woman,

he is requested to convey it through the medium of a letter."

" Mistaken Melanie!" exclaimed the Abbé, when he had perused the note, " to feel more degraded by the publication of her guilt than by the commission of the crime itself!"

Lemira, however, desired that Melanie's request of seclusion should be attended to; and Fleurville retired to his own apartment to acquaint her, in as delicate terms as he could select, with the Vicomte's resolution to apply to the parliament of Paris for a divorce, which he was secure of obtaining when he disclosed the facts connected with their marriage, and the circumstances which made him anxious to dissolve it.

" Had you, Madam," the Abbé added, " deigned to intrust the Vi-

comte de Valmire with the secret of your attachment to another, he would instantly have resigned all claims to your hand; and would have endeavoured to reconcile your father to your union with the object of your choice: but, since you did not deem him worthy of your confidence, he is compelled to adopt the only expedient, which now remains practicable, to restore to him his honor and his liberty."

The complete revolution, which Fleurville's conversation had created in Lemira's ideas, induced her to seek anxiously in employment a refuge from those thoughts, that, unbidden, intruded to disturb the calm of her solitude; and having often found, when her mind was agitated, that music exacted that attention which the page of the historian or poet could not command, she placed her harp

near an opèn window: but her flying fingers had scarcely played a prelude when she was again interrupted by the arrival of a packet, which the servant said was brought by a courier from Paris, who would return thither with her Highness's answer in the course of a few days.

Its contents, which Lemira perused with pleasure and surprise, afforded her ample subject of reflection, until the bell summoned her to the dining room where she found Fleurville, who communicated to her Melanie's acquiescence with the wishes of the Vicomte.

" And now," said Fleurville, " as this important affair is arranged, let me entreat your Highness to pardon my presumption, if I adopt the character of an adviser; for which my age, profession, and the interest ex-

cited in my breast by your noble virtues, must plead my apology. Your youth, and the peculiar forgetfulness of self which distinguishes your conduct, prevent you from perceiving the impropriety of your remaining any longer under this roof, where the lady of the mansion is wholly unworthy of your friendship, and unfit to participate in your society."

"Long since," replied Lemira, "should I have chosen another place of residence, but compassion towards the suffering Melanie has hitherto detained me near her; nor can I now leave her to all the horrors of a distempered brain, and to all the violence of excessive remorse."

"But, noble Princess! you must consider the duties which you owe to your own character, and those which your high station require you to per-

perform; and must reflect that the most spotless fame may be blasted by the breath of calumny."

" Though I am far from wishing to brave the public opinion, I cannot think that the most rigid censors can construe an act of pure compassion into guilt: but even should the voice of the world be raised against me, I must in this single instance refuse to yield to its clamour; for never, never will I forsake the daughter of my benefactor until her peace of mind is restored, or until I can resign her to the care of some friend upon whose affectionate attention to her welfare and happiness I can depend." This was said in so decided a tone of voice, that Fleurville, supposing that all further argument would be unavailing, reluctantly confessed that his judgment was vanquished by her generous resolution, and only entreated her to

withdraw from Dijon as soon as her feelings of pity toward Melanie would permit.

She promised to comply with his advice, and then added with a smile, "Since you have recalled my thoughts to the consideration of my own situation, I must request you to attend to some of the peculiar circumstances with which it is distinguished; and, when you are in possession of these facts, you will be enabled, I trust, to point out to me some convent where I may refresh my mind, after its recent afflictions, by retirement and devotion, and may await with resignation the reconcilement of the various members of my family; or may, at least, reside until I can discover where I am likely to obtain the most secure and proper asylum."

CHAP. III.

> O thou most Christian enemy to peace!
> Again in arms; again provoking fate?
> That prince, and that alone, is truly great;
> Who draws the sword reluctant, gladly sheaths;
> On empire builds what empire far outweighs,
> And makes his throne a scaffold to the skies.
>
> THE COMPLAINT.

It has been already mentioned in the early part of this history, that the Duke of Orleans, when pursued by the just vengeance of his brother for his numerous and reiterated acts of rebellion, took refuge in the court of Lorraine, where he was received by its Prince with that generous hospitality which formed a prominent feature of his character. Associating

on terms of friendly intimacy with the members that composed the Duke of Lorraine's family, Gaston did not long remain insensible to the youthful charms of the [a]Princess Marguerite, who then presided in the magnificent palace of her brother; and, though the Duke of Orleans possessed few of those qualities which command esteem, he was not destitute of accomplishments and personal graces calculated to awaken a more tender sentiment in the breast of a Princess just emerging from childhood. Her tears and the passionate entreaties of her lover induced Charles to yield his consent to this ill omened marriage, and by this act of indulgence he sealed his own destruction. No sooner had the news of this event reached the ear of Louis, than he set out, at the head of a large army, to punish the presumption of which the Duke of Lorraine had been

[a] See note.

guilty in forming an alliance with the house of Bourbon; and the nuptial festivities were disturbed by the trumpet of the invader, and by the peremptory demand, that the trembling bride should be yielded to the vengeance of the enraged monarch.

Unprepared for war, Charles feigned compliance with the wishes of the French King; and, having by this stratagem induced Louis to retire with his forces, he secured the retreat of his sister into Flanders; and, hastily collecting his troops, he prepared by arms to defend the measure which he had found it necessary to adopt. But neither the talents, the courage, nor the just cause of the General, nor the bravery of his soldiers could long enable them to resist the overwhelming numbers of the troops of France; who, having taken Luneville and St. Mihel, thundered at the gates of Nanci, which

the unfortunate Charles was obliged to deliver to Louis; happy to obtain his liberty even on these degrading terms. Peace, however, could not long remain undisturbed between an unappeased and powerful monarch, and a Prince too weak to contend successfully, but too proud to submit tamely to oppression; and the banner of war was again unfurled by Charles, who, collecting all his army, attempted, by a noble and vigorous effort, to regain those territories which he had lost with so much pain. The counsels of the Cardinal Richelieu, however, urged Louis to oppose him with a force, which, depriving the Duke of those dominions which he had hitherto retained, established the authority of the French King throughout the province of Lorraine.

The Duke of Orleans, dismayed at the misfortunes of his brother-in-law,

repaired to Paris, and, throwing himself at the feet of Louis, implored pardon for his past errors, and promised amendment for the future; but refused, with a firmness inconsistent with the general levity of his conduct, to purchase the forgiveness of his brother and sovereign by basely consenting to the dissolution of the marriage which he had contracted. He was obliged, however, to submit to live in a state of separation from his bride, for on this condition alone could Louis be prevailed upon to receive him into favor again; and the Duke retired to Blois in hopes that some circumstance might occur to liberate him from the promise which he had most reluctantly given.

In the mean time the unfortunate cause of all Charles's disasters, the beautiful and persecuted Princess Marguerite continued in Flanders to

waste her bloom in unavailing tears and bitter regrets for the miseries which her imprudent passion had occasioned to her brother; and the stolen visits of her husband shed the only gleams of joy which enlivened the gloom of her banishment from all her soul loved and delighted in—her family and her country! Two years had been already devoted by her to seclusion and sorrow, when Gaston's restless spirit tempted him to join the Count de Soissons in a conspiracy against the life of Richelieu: but the activity of the minister detected the plot before it was ripe for execution, and the Princes were seized and thrown into prison.

Excessive anguish rent the gentle bosom of Marguerite, when the sullen monotony of her retirement was interrupted by the sad intelligence of her husband's captivity; and she even de-

termined to sacrifice her fair fame, and every prospect of happiness to herself, to obtain liberty for this loved, but inconsistent being.

The policy of Richelieu, however, with a view to conciliate his enemies, prevented this act of self-devotement: for by his advice Louis once more forgave the delinquency of his brother; and, to bind him still more firmly by the ties of gratitude, the monarch acknowledged the validity of his marriage; and the Duchess of Orleans arrived at Paris to add, by her beauty, additional lustre to the court of the French King.

After the death of Louis, the Duke of Orleans was appointed governor to his infant son who succeeded to the throne; and the situation of her husband gave Marguerite frequent opportunities of amusing the young king,

whose childish affection was conciliated by the gentleness of her manners, and the beauty of her countenance. As he advanced in years, he still preserved the same regard for the Duchess; and, even when the death of his uncle deprived her of her place near the person of the King, her influence remained unimpaired; nor did it create any jealousy in the favourites of the crown, as she exerted her interest only in matters totally unconnected with the affairs of the state.

It was from this Princess, now surrounded by all the splendor of royalty, that Lemira received the letter mentioned in the last chapter, in which, after affectionately condoling with her on her father's death, she entreated her to repair immediately to Paris, and to accept a permanent establishment in the hotel D'Orleans; where a widow, and, deprived of the so-

ciety of her daughters by their marriage with foreign Princes, she required the company of her niece to charm away the gloom of those melancholy recollections, which still continued to assail her peace. Lemira's answer was couched in terms of respectful affection, and stated, that, when her duties in the room of a sick friend were finished, she intended to retire to a convent until her mind and health, impaired by her recent afflictions, should be sufficiently restored to enable her to embrace a temporary asylum in the palace of her father's sister.

The Abbé de Fleurville remained at the villa to watch over the safety and happiness of the lovely Lemira; who, though still refused admittance to the presence of Melanie, persisted in making daily attempts to see her, in the hope that her sullen and proud

penitence would be conquered by the persevering kindness of her friend; and that she should again be received into the chamber of affliction. But hitherto Melanie's solitude had been impervious to the intrusion of all but Abbeville; who effected a forcible entrance into her apartment for the purpose of reading to her St. Amand's will; which, at her express and earnest entreaty, she was suffered to attend to, without the observation of witnesses. A considerable sum was bequeathed to the Princess of Lorraine, with a request that her Highness would deign to accept it as a testimony of the testator's high admiration of her virtues: the rest of his large possessions he left to the Vicomte de Valmire and his wife Melanie; and, after the death of either, the whole of the fortune was to be centred in the survivor, and was to remain at his or her entire disposal. During the perusal of this legal in-

strument Melanie wept abundantly; and, when Abbeville ceased to read, she exclaimed, while her tears quenched the burning crimson of her cheek,

"O, my father! could you have foreseen the crimes, which have destroyed your child and laid your grey hairs with sorrow in the grave, you would not have made a testament so partial, nor associated my blasted name with that of the irreproachable Valmire! I am only grieved," she said, after a pause, "that my father has not left a more considerable sum to the noble and generous Princess of Lorraine; for if money would repay the debt of gratitude that I owe her, all my fortune, were it mine to give, should be laid at her feet: but her merits are as much above recompence as she is herself above price. Oh! tell her," she further spoke, looking up, while the brightness of her eyes shone

through her tears, " tell her, for perhaps I shall never again behold the beautiful severity of her countenance, that, though unable to follow her bright example, I shall always retain a powerful sense of her superiority, and of my own degradation!"

When this scene was reported to Lemira, she felt the softest pity for the fair penitent revisit her breast; from whence it had been partly expelled by the inflexible indifference which she had displayed on the morning of the trial, respecting the fate of a man whose confidence she had betrayed, and whose life appeared to be at her mercy; but, as she persisted in her resolution of not seeing the Princess, she was obliged to employ Abbeville as the interpreter of her thoughts to the unfortunate recluse.

The events which had occurred

since her residence in St. Amand's villa, and the attention which had consequently been required of her, had awakened so much painful interest in Lemira's mind and had occupied so much of her time, that she had hitherto been unable to fulfil the melancholy duty of visiting her father's sepulchre. But, as her attentions were no longer acceptable to Melanie, she determined not to suffer any further time to elapse before she performed this sad but pleasing act of affection. She chose night for the execution of her project, that she might be less liable to observation; and, having ordered her carriage to drive to the chartreuse, she commanded her servants to follow her with torches to the entrance of the tomb; when, unlocking the iron door at the mouth of the vault, she took a torch from the domestics whom she left on the outside, and had already begun

to descend when her further progress was arrested by the appearance of a light, streaming through the grate at the foot of the steps. On fixing her eyes more intently on the spot from whence the light issued, she perceived a shadowy figure rising slowly from his knees, and remaining stationary in an attitude of deep dejection near the monument of her father. Lemira's great mind was superior to the effects of superstition; but yet it was difficult to imagine how any being of earthly mould could penetrate into the vault, which was rendered inaccessible to all mortal footsteps except her own, by her exclusive possession of the keys. As the Duke of Lorraine died poor and in prison, his tomb was devoid of those splendid ornaments which might, in the sepulchre of a catholic Prince, have invited the rapacity of a robber to violate the sanctity of the dead;

and Lemira therefore, having decided that no being, whether an inhabitant of the lower sphere, or a spirit freed from his earthly mansion, could be actuated by hostile or sordid motives to visit the resting place of her father's ashes, compelled her fears to be tranquillized, and rapidly proceeded down the steps: but when she had nearly reached the last of them, the figure, as if startled by the light sound of her feet, suddenly vanished into the distant obscurity of the vault. Lemira knew not that there was any other passage to this silent house of the dead, excepting that by which she had entered. She, therefore, imagined the object of her terror only to be shrouded by the darkness; and her prayers were frequently interrupted to throw a glance of timid inquiry towards the distant recesses of the cave, which still remained impervious to the light of the

torch. By degrees, however, her piety overcame her terror: her soul, raised above the consideration of earthly weakness, soared into the regions of futurity, and became wrapped in contemplation of that glory which we now see darkly, but which will be clearly revealed, when "this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality!" The image of her father mingled with the thoughts of Heaven; and, while her tears fell unconsciously on the marble that concealed his remains, the eye of faith, bursting the fetters which bound her to this world, showed him to her among the spirits of the blessed, crowned with a diadem of amaranth; while his voice mingled with the voices of the host of angels in hymns of heavenly harmony.

From this vision of ecstatic happiness she was suddenly and alarmingly

aroused by a deep and hollow groan, which seemed to proceed from some person in the immediate vicinity of the spot where she was kneeling; and, starting on her feet, her first impulse urged her to fly through the grate which she had left open: but her steps were arrested by the voice of the stranger, who, in a tone of peculiar softness, thus addressed her;

" Have my misfortunes then effaced my person from the recollection of Lemira, and am I become even an object of terror to the beloved of my soul? That indeed," he added with a raised voice, " would be anguish much keener than any which the tyranny of Louis has been able to impose on me, and which was left for the coldness of Lemira to inflict."

" Oh, no!" she answered, gently withdrawing her hand from his grasp,

"neither time, nor absence, nor affliction, can ever induce me to forget the friend of my youth, and the defender of our country! But, oh! why unnecessarily expose yourself to the chance of detection! for you must be aware that your captivity would be followed by the ruin of the cause which you espouse."

"I come like yourself to mourn over the beloved friend who reposes beneath this marble. I come to swear," he added, while his eyes kindled into flame, "I come to swear, in the presence of this martyr, enmity to a tyrant, eternal hostility to the house of Bourbon; and may their troops be blasted with cowardice, their most secret councils betrayed by treachery, and may the last branch of this deceitful race be felled by the arm of the assassin! Kneel," he further spoke, seising Lemira's icy hand; "kneel,

and join me in vowing vengeance and never failing enmity against this inveterate line."

Pale and cold as the monumental marble on which she gazed, and, shuddering at the violence of the stranger, she yet retained sufficient courage to refuse compliance with his extravagant demand.

"I will not offend that Heaven, before whose throne my knees have been this moment bent, and my soul poured out in supplication for mercy and support: I will not become so unworthy of the religion I profess, which enjoins the forgiveness of injuries: I will not draw down on my devoted head the just anger of the Most High, by taking a cruel and an impious vow! No! rather let me conjure you to curb the proud feeling of resentment, which urges you to breathe sentiments of

reprisal and revenge: rather would I implore you to join me in my petitions to the throne of mercy for fortitude to enable us to sustain our misfortunes; and for resignation to submit to them, without yielding to impatience, or sinking into despair."

As she finished speaking, her beseeching eyes, streaming with tears, were raised to the face of the stranger, who, unable to resist the softening appeal, sunk with her beside the tomb.

"I will pray with you, Lemira!" he said, "but never can I retract the vows which I have pronounced: never can I sheath my sword until our possessions, our kingdom, and our fame, are restored to us: never, until thou, beauteous Lemira! art seated on the throne of Lorraine, surrounded, as thou once wast, by crowds of attend-

ing nobles and lovely maidens, anxious to anticipate every wish, and to shed around thee the influence of joy. Then, when the charms of music, and the fragrance of flowers contributed with love and friendship to complete thy happiness, then would I lay my laurels at thy feet, and restore my sword, which was only drawn in defence of your rights, to its scabbard." His voice sunk into the gentle tones of tenderness, when he resumed, "Embrace, I implore you, the opportunity, which the present moment affords, to quit a country governed by our direst enemy; and to fly with me to the court of Germany, where every honor and pleasure await you; and where you may reside in safety until the arm of your warrior has reconquered your dominions. This cloak will conceal your person, and we can emerge from this vault by the passage through which I entered it. Reject not my

petition, beloved of my soul!" he added with increasing warmth, "refuse not to accept the protection of my friend and ally, to whom I will conduct you with the tenderness and the respect of a brother."

His impetuosity had prevented Lemira from interrupting him: but, as soon as she could obtain attention, she absolutely and firmly refused to adopt the measure which he recommended to her; and, after bidding him farewell, she arose to quit the vault, when he threw himself on the ground, and, seising her hand, exclaimed,

"This is perhaps the last time that I shall behold you; for the country which you refuse to quit is forbidden to my alien foot: hear me then, dearest Lemira! hear me disclose to you the passion which consumes my breast; and, oh! tell me, that the union, which

will blend the rival interests of the house of Lorraine, is not foreign to your heart."

"Is the repository of the dead," replied the Princess, "a place fit to breathe the vows of mortal love? Cannot the conviction, that our bodies will soon become cold and mouldering like his," (pointing to the tomb) "check the ebullition of passion, and render the frail creature of humanity inaccessible to the softening effect of tenderness? Too fatal has this sentiment been already to òur house; and, oh! may its sole remaining supports be exempt from this pernicious bane."

So saying she began to ascend the steps; and, soon out of the reach of the stranger's voice, she felt her deep oppression yield to the effects of the pure air of heaven, which she now freely inhaled.

The agitation caused by the scene which has been recorded in the preceding pages; the interest which was excited in Lemira's breast by the misery of the stranger, and the anxiety which she felt on the subject of his safety, chased sleep from her pillow; and she arose in the morning pale and unrefreshed. Reflections on her own situation had, likewise, intruded into her midnight meditations; and thoughts had arisen to awaken suspicions regarding the good faith of Louis, and to induce her to consider the degree of confidence which she ought to repose on the royal promise. It was not, however, consistent with Lemira's character long to harass herself with fruitless alarms; or to endeavour to recall measures which she had previously thought it right to adopt. She, therefore, determined to proceed in the path which she had chosen after mature deliberation, and contentedly

to leave the event in the hands of that Power who alone could controll it: and, having thus armed her mind with fortitude, she walked into the garden to dissipate her unusual lassitude by the loveliness of Nature's works.

Not long had she been enjoying the beauty of the flowers, wet with the dew of morning, and yielding their fragrance to the balmy breath of the south, when she perceived the Abbé approaching with that look of abstraction, and tardiness of step, which announced the possession of intelligence. He lost no time in communicating to the Princess, that he had just received a letter from the Vicomte, acquainting him with the dissolution of his marriage with Melanie, and expressing his wish, that all the fortune, which might be left to him by St. Amand's will, should be placed in the hands of

trustees for Melanie's exclusive use; and he added a request, that Fleurville and Abbeville would accept the trust; as, he felt assured, that they would always make Melanie's interest and comfort the first objects of their consideration. Lemira silently admired Mellidor's generosity; and the Abbé, whose knowledge of his private circumstances enabled him more fully to appreciate the sacrifice, openly praised the disinterested conduct of his noble minded pupil: but Abbeville protested against the gift as infinitely too large; and mentioned that the words used in the will impowered the Vicomte to receive half the property, even when he was no longer the husband of Melanie. All that now, however, remained to be done was for the Abbé and the Physician to accept the trust reposed in them; and instruments were accordingly prepared and executed to secure the

principal, while the interest was to be paid to Melanie in any form which might be most agreeable to herself.

This sorrowing penitent, when informed of the arrangement made in her favor, expressed her gratitude for this unmerited instance of generosity in the Vicomte de Valmire: but she did not attempt to imitate an act which had excited her admiration, or to divest herself of any part of her vast possessions, to enrich the injured nobleman or his portionless sister.

On the day succeeding the arrival of the divorce, Fleurville informed the Princess that he could no longer protract his absence from his abbey; and again entreated her to quit a house where she was wasting her life in inactivity, without producing benefit even to the unhappy woman whose miseries she sought to relieve.

Lemira, indeed, began to perceive that she was making a very useless sacrifice to compassion and gratitude: she, therefore, determined on another attempt to see Melanie; and then, if her chamber still remained inaccessible to her entreaties, to signify to her by writing her intention to retire from a place where her presence was neither acceptable nor beneficial.

For this purpose she knocked at Melanie's door, and waited some minutes without receiving any answer: she again repeated the summons, which was succeeded by the same profound silence. At last becoming alarmed, she called the Abbé, and, entering the dressing room together, they were surprised to find it desolate: but their astonishment was increased, when, on proceeding to the sleeping apartment, they also per-

ceived that it was no longer occupied by Melanie.

Agitated, but not overcome with terror, Lemira collected the servants, and despatched them in every direction in pursuit of their unfortunate mistress; while she descended into the garden with Fleurville, where every spot and shrub was submitted to strict but fruitless investigation. Her meditated departure, though uncommunicated to Melanie, now fell on Lemira's heart with the deadly weight of sin; and the horrible surmise, that the wretched woman had fallen the victim of her own frantic deed, was not wanted to complete the anguish of her feelings. This terrible suspicion was, however, quickly removed by a second and more minute examination of Melanie's apartment; from whence the jewels and all the lighter

articles of apparel were withdrawn, and those only remained which it would have been difficult to remove with secrecy.

The suite of rooms, appropriated to Melanie's use, were placed in a wing of the house, and were separated from the rest of the building by a long gallery, which made the entrance of robbers into her chamber without the knowledge of the other inmates of the villa a possible event; and this conjecture was greatly confirmed by Abbeville's acknowledging, that he had, on the preceding evening, given Melanie, at her own request, a large sum of money which could not now be discovered. Flora, also, when examined by the Princess, confessed, that, in compliance with Melanie's desire, she had quitted her usual chamber, and had slept for some nights past in a different part of the house. Lemira ex-

pressed her displeasure at this breach of trust in Flora; who had been strictly commanded never to quit Melanie's room except when the Princess or Abbeville were there in attendance.

Every part of Dijon and of its vicinity was searched without success; and notices were even sent to every town within several miles of the villa. But, as no intelligence could be obtained of the hapless Melanie, her friends were obliged reluctantly to give up the pursuit; and were at last convinced that she had withdrawn to some retired spot to conceal herself from those whose contempt she so unjustly dreaded.

No object now remained to detain the Princess at Dijon; and, St. Maure's having been recommended by the Abbé as an eligible place of retirement, she determined to begin her

journey thither immediately, in hopes that, in its "lone solitudes and awful cells," she might regain that composure and strength of mind which had of late been so fearfully and variously disturbed.

CHAP. IV.

Can any mortal mixture of earth's mould
Breathe such divine inchanting ravisument?
Sure something holy lodges in that breast;
And with these raptures moves the vocal air
To testify his hidden residence.
How sweetly did they float upon the wings
Of silence, through the empty vaulted night,
At every fall smoothing the raven down
Of darkness till it smiled.

COMUS.

On Mellidor's arrival at Paris his first attention was directed to the attainment of a divorce, which he found no difficulty in procuring; and his next object was to wait on the Prince de Condé for the purpose of requesting an appointment in the army, which was then preparing for active ser-

vice, but the destination of which was known only to Louis and his ministers. Condé's reception of his former aid-de-camp was marked with every testimony of esteem and attachment: but his eagle eye could not fail to discover the devastation which a few months of suffering had produced in the person of his young favourite. Mellidor drew a paper from his vest, which he presented to the Prince with the following words: "Before I request to be again allowed to serve in the army under your Royal Highness's command, I must solicit your attention to the circumstances of my present situation, which you will find detailed in that scroll; and, when your Royal Highness has examined its contents, I shall be obliged by your presenting it to the King, that his Majesty may also be enabled to form an accurate opinion of my recent conduct, and to decide whether

he thinks me still worthy of that employment which I am solicitous to obtain. Family arrangements now call me into Languedoc, where I shall endeavour to await with fortitude the result of your communications with the King."

Having taken leave of the Prince, Mellidor bent his footsteps towards the hotel lately occupied by his father; and there every object, by giving a new direction to his thoughts, withdrew him from the contemplation of those miseries which more peculiarly formed his own individual suffering.

The image of his father returned to his mind; and, though the recollection was not accompanied by all the enthusiastic tenderness that distinguished Lemira's affection for her father, yet he felt that, in the grave, every remembrance of parental severity and harsh-

ness was for ever buried, and that the good man's anxiety to form his son's character, and to secure his happiness, alone survived, to melt his bosom with kindness and his eyes into tears. He recollected, however, that his filial piety could be better displayed by an active performance of his duty than by the indulgence of unavailing grief: he, therefore, instantly began that reformation in his domestic arrangements which the present contracted state of his fortune rendered necessary; nor, while employed in the discharge of his servants and the resignation of the mansion, where the happy days of youth and innocence were passed, did he breathe a sigh of regret for the sacrifice, which his pride rather than his generosity impelled him to make, of all claim to Melanie's possessions. It was not until he began his journey towards the south of France, attended only by the faithful

Bernard, when his thoughts fixed on the beloved sister whom he had rendered portionless, that he wished he could, without a blush, have retained enough of Melanie's superfluous riches to support Rosalie in affluence. But this desire was instantly checked by his conviction that Rosalie must possess too much of her father's and her brother's spirit to accept a charitable donation from a person whom she could not esteem; and he added, "My sabre, if the King allows me to draw it in his service, will earn for me the subsistence of a soldier; while, by resigning my private fortune to Rosalie, I shall, at least, secure her from feeling the bitter pang of poverty; and, even should the opinion of my Sovereign convert my misfortunes into a crime, still, as a volunteer I may find a soldier's grave, where my griefs and my wants will be buried with my dust.

It was the season of autumn when Mellidor entered the beautiful and fertile province of Languedoc. On one side of the road, the vines displayed their glowing bunches to invite the hand of the thirsty traveller; and, on the other, the golden corn waved its abundant stems to the gentle breeze; while to the south the view was extended to the blue waves of the Mediterranean, and to the west the prospect was bounded by the varied forms of the Pyrenees, that raised their snow-capt heads to the clouds. The sun was gradually sinking beneath the horizon, and the oppressive heat of the day had already yielded to the soft refreshing calm of evening, when Mellidor's carriage stopped at the avenue of Les Délices; and, being tired of the confinement of the vehicle, he quitted it to enjoy the luxurious coolness of the air, breathing over a continued line of limes, and diffusing

around a delicious fragrance. He had not advanced many steps when his attention was arrested by a wild strain of vocal music, which was immediately followed by a joyful acclamation: in the next moment Rosalie was in his arms; and, while he pressed her to his breast, he felt that life was not entirely divested of its charms since it was still sweetened by the affection of innocence. Twining her arm within his, and, springing rather than walking, she drew him towards the house; but, as the avenue opened and allowed a bright light to shine on his person, she suddenly stopped, and, fixing her eyes on his face, she exclaimed, " But oh, my beloved brother! what disastrous event has occasioned the alteration which I now perceive in your countenance since last we parted? Whither is fled the bright carnation of your cheek? whither the flashing lustre of your eyes? and where are the smiles of joy

with which you used to welcome your Rosalie?"

" I have been suffering from illness, my sweetest sister!" he replied with painful emotion.

" You have been ill!" she repeated, " and I was not there to arrange the pillows for your aching head, to watch lest even a fly should buzz round you to disturb your slumbers; and to mingle the refreshing cup to quench your burning thirst. Oh! why did not you send for me?" she added weeping, " you think me too young and too wild to attend by the couch of sickness: but I would have knelt whole hours by your bedside, supporting your head without stirring one of its hairs with my breath, and no mouse could have crept about the room so silently as Rosalie. Oh! why did you not send for me?"

Mellidor, to withdraw her thoughts from the subject which seemed completely to engross them, partially opening his vest displayed a pair of beautiful eyes gazing at her; and Rosalie, with all the versatility peculiar to her age and her character, was instantly absorbed in contemplation of the little stranger, whom Mellidor now presented to her, and whose history he explained. It belonged to a genus, then scarcely known in Europe, called the Macauco, and had been purchased by him of a sailor, by whom it had been brought from its native country, Madagascar. Rosalie thought she could never sufficiently admire the beauty and variety of its attitudes, the soft lustre of its hazle eyes, and the alternate rings of black and white with which his long bushy tail was adorned. At length she ran into the villa to deposit her favorite on a satin cushion; and then again

joined her brother, who was conversing with the Vicomtesse and Madame de Clairville in the saloon. Every trace of grief had vanished from the countenance of the former, and with it had also departed the humble spirit which she had shown in adversity; and Mellidor found her the same volatile, heartless and unprincipled being who had ruined his father without compunction, and had urged the sacrifice of her child without remorse.

Deprived by her retirement in Languedoc of a stage, whereon she might exert her dangerous talent for intrigue, the energies of the Vicomtesse were directed into a new channel, and Rosalie was frequently the victim of her unjust resentment, or the object of her capricious adulation. While she often punished the most trifling accident with a severity which could be deserved only by a crime, a serious fault

was passed over by this capricious mother without being marked by a remonstrance, and was sometimes even construed into a merit.

It would be impossible to conceive a mode of education better adapted to ruin the temper and corrupt the heart of the youthful Rosalie than that pursued by Caliste; and Mellidor had not long enjoyed the society of his sister before he perceived that she had contracted faults which would require a firm hand to eradicate. With discernment enough to detect her mother's errors, she possessed not sufficient self-command to repress the expression of the resentment with which they inspired her; but when, after a prolonged altercation with the Vicomtesse, Rosalie, with the raised colour and flashing eye of passion, was indignantly quitting the room, a word, or a look from Mellidor, would

instantly recall her to a recollection of her duty; and would induce her to return and fall weeping on his neck.

With a heart so sensible of affection, and feelings so alive to reproach, Mellidor hoped that the correction of those faults, which proceeded chiefly from an indulged warmth of temper and an uncommon degree of animal spirits, might be effected by a mode of treatment that would unite firmness with kindness, and perseverance with lenity. To accomplish this desirable object, it was, however, indispensably necessary that the Vicomtesse should be separated from her daughter; and that he should remain near his sister for the purpose of correcting every fault as it appeared, and inspecting the formation and improvement of her character. The situation which he had solicited in the army, by rendering him liable to be called into active ser-

vice, made the duration of his residence in Languedoc so uncertain that he could not expect her to derive much benefit from his instructions: but he determined to embrace the first opportunity of removing her from the pernicious example of Caliste; for, when detached from her, he hoped that Madame de Clairville's mild, but hitherto inefficient remonstrances (for they were now perpetually opposed by the Vicomtesse) would produce their due effect on the affectionate disposition of Rosalie.

In the mean time, this innocent child of nature left no art untried to entice Mellidor from the gloomy retrospections which still continued to harass his bosom with remorse, and to chase sleep from his pillow. When he walked, she gambolled around him with the airiness of a sylph, and the frolic ges-

tures of the comic muse. If he read, she listened in mute attention to the lettered page: if he was disposed to exercise his pencil, she would lead him to the most romantic views, while unconsciously she became its subject, by the natural beauty and vivacity of her attitudes.

Mellidor gladly employed her enthusiastic attachment to himself as the means of conveying instruction to her; and no walk was now undertaken, by these tender friends, without contributing to Rosalie's advancement in virtue or in knowledge. No flower was now viewed with the same careless indifference with which it was formerly regarded; for whether he explained the botanic names and distinction of the blossoms, which her frolic hand had sportively gathered, and imperceptibly led her to observe in their minutest fibre the wonderful works of the Cre-

ator; or whether he drew her, as if by accident, to bring relief to the sick and impoverished cottager, all was designed, without destroying the lovely simplicity of her character, to call her mind from the trifles, which had hitherto engrossed it, to the contemplation of higher objects and of higher duties.

The sun never rose from its splendid mansion in the east without viewing, during its diurnal progress, some error corrected, or some virtue improved in the mind of the youthful Rosalie. But while any fault continued to cloud its brightness, Mellidor considered his work as incomplete; and he looked forward, with melancholy anticipation of an evil result to the termination of his present interesting employment before his lessons could firmly establish his sister in the paths of excellence. In the mean time, Caliste became each day

more impatient of the gloomy, unvaried life which she was now compelled to lead; and her restless spirit, unsupplied with subjects for mischief or intrigue, vented its superfluous energy in petulant remonstrances or unprovoked ill humour, of which Rosalie was generally the object; and Mellidor was frequently pleased by observing, that the deepened crimson of her cheek alone betrayed the emotion which the violent invectives of the Vicomtesse excited in her daughter.

One morning, when the party were assembled round the breakfast table, the long expected and long dreaded packet from the Prince de Condé arrived: but while the contents gratified Mellidor by the assurance that his services were accepted, and that he was appointed to the command of a regiment, they were also the cause of dis-

tress to his feeling mind, as they conveyed orders for his immediate departure from Languedoc.

" What is the matter, my beloved brother?" inquired Rosalie, when, on raising her eyes to his face, she beheld there an expression of embarrassment, " I fear those papers bring no pleasant intelligence."

" Every happiness in this world must be duly medicined with sorrow," he replied; " and though these letters inform me that the King has bestowed on me a situation which I have anxiously sought, yet they grieve me, as the employment must separate me from my Rosalie : but, I trust, she has derived too much fortitude from my instructions to murmur when duty summons me from her.

His gentle remonstrances, which

had never before been neglected by their innocent object, were now unheeded; for tears gushed in abundance from their coral cells, and flowed rapidly down her cheeks as she exclaimed in broken accents, " O Mellidor! do not, do not leave me! my faults are only imperfectly corrected, and will return when they no longer fear the glance of your penetrating eye: the veil of ignorance is only partially withdrawn from my mind, and will again fall over it when I am deprived of the wise instructions of my dearest, my only friend."

As she finished speaking, her eyes, still filled with tears, were fixed on Mellidor's countenance, hoping that she might there be able to discover some signs of acquiescence with her wishes: but, taking her hand fondly within his, he endeavoured, by explaining to her the nature of the ser-

vice which now required his presence, to convince her that his honor and his character might be implicated by disobeying the commands of his general; and, consequently, that compliance with her entreaties would be improper for him to yield, or for her to urge. Rosalie, however, could attend to no arguments in opposition to her own feelings; could think no duty necessary whose performance would occasion her the misery of parting from her brother; and her heart beat with redoubled quickness, her cheek glowed with a brighter carnation when she risked the request of being allowed to accompany the Vicomte, and to remain with him until his regiment should be ordered to join the expedition which was planning by the war minister.

"What!" exclaimed the Vicomte, his eyes flashing fire, and his pale

cheek assuming an unwonted tinge of crimson, " what! expose my Rosalie to the unlicensed gaze of insolent soldiers; allow her delicacy to be shocked by their coarse conversation or unbridled admiration? No! if the sister of the Vicomte de Valmire is excluded by her poverty from the court of her Sovereign, let her still bloom unseen, for never shall she be degraded by entering into society beneath her rank."

Silenced by her brother's unusual warmth, and, finding it impossible to controll the expression of her sorrow which appeared to give him pain, she arose and sought the retirement of her own apartment; where she recalled to her mind all Mellidor's tenderness, the patience with which he bore her faults, the persevering gentleness which he employed to correct them, the wisdom of his instructions, the advantage

which she had hoped to derive from his lessons; and at each recollection her tears flowed anew, and her sobs became more violent.

"Who now," she cried, clasping her hands on her heaving bosom, "who now will shield me from the tyranny of my mother, or who will teach me to bear her unkindness without reply? Who now will listen with affectionate attention to the narrative of all my little joys and sorrows, will increase my happiness by sharing it, and lessen my griefs by partaking them?"

Her meditations were soon interrupted by the entrance of Mellidor; who, seating himself by her side, pressed her hand within his, and, dividing the black tresses on her forehead, kissed off the tears which still wetted her cheek.

"At the risk of spoiling you by too much indulgence, my sweet Rosalie!" he said, looking down at her with a tender smile, "I have resolved, provided your mother's consent can be obtained, to procure a house for you near Joinville; where, under the care of Mad. de Clairville, you may reside while my regiment remains in that town; and, when I request that you will live there in the same state of seclusion which you have preserved here, I feel assured that you will not hesitate to comply with my wishes, and will refuse all society to which I do not myself introduce you."

In a paroxysm of joy Rosalie threw her arms round her brother's neck, uttering, with wild delight, the promise of obedience to his commands, and gratitude for his indulgence. He then quitted her chamber to give her time to prepare for her journey, which

was fixed to commence on the following morning; and no person who might now behold her, with her eyes sparkling with happiness, her cheek glowing like the damask rose, her mouth adorned with "wreathed smiles," could have recognised the weeping, sobbing girl who, an hour before, had entered the apartment the image of despair. Madame de Clairville soon joined her to give those directions of which Rosalie's excessive joy rendered her incapable; and from her Rosalie learned that the Vicomtesse had opposed, with her usual violence and caprice, the removal of her daughter from her own care; but, on finding that Valmire's determination could not be shaken, had broken out into bitter invectives, and declared her intention of taking up her abode with a friend at Lyons.

Rosalie endeavoured to suppress

the feeling of pleasure which rose in her heart, when she discovered that Caliste was not to accompany them to Joinville; and with a light step she sprung into the carriage, which, after a long and laborious journey, conveyed them to Joinville, situated on the river Marne.

CHAP. V.

His fair large front and eye sublime declared
Absolute rule; and hyacinthine locks
Round from his parted forehead manly hung
Clustering, but not beneath his shoulders broad.

MILTON.

On quitting the scene of her greatest calamities the Princess of Lorraine felt not that exhilaration of spirits which might be supposed to result from the anticipation of a more tranquil and disastrous futurity: but, as the travellers journeyed into the open country, the purity of the air, and the varied beauty of the prospects united with the exertions of her own mind to call her from the recollection of

her sorrows; and to induce her to attend to the enlightened remarks with which her holy companion sought to beguile her painful meditations.

Among other pleasing topics, the Abbé led the discourse to Rosalie; and so successfully were his talents employed in portraying her innocence, simplicity, and affection for her brother, that Lemira became interested in the happiness of Valmire's sister, and expressed her hopes that no long period would elapse before an opportunity would be afforded her of forming an acquaintance with this lovely girl. From the history of Rosalie it was scarcely possible to separate that of her brother; nor did Fleurville discover, until it was too late to retract, that he had unintentionally detailed to his attentive auditress all the pious and generous motives which had induced Mellidor to contract his un-

fortunate marriage, and to sacrifice his happiness at the shrine of duty. Lemira's admiration for the young Vicomte's character increased with every new display of it made by the Abbé; and, though she repressed the expression of those feelings to which Fleurville's discourse had given rise, she could not conceal from his penetrating eye the rapid changes of her cheek, alternately exhibiting the blush of the damask rose, or the pallid hue of its fearful brother. With the rigid sense, however, of what was due to herself, she imperiously checked her newly awakened thoughts; for Fleurville's enthusiasm had not betrayed to its object the secret of Mellidor's aspiring passion.

While the travellers were engaged in this interesting conversation, the day passed away: but at the rapid approach of night they became silent,

as their anxiety to reach Chaveaux, the town where the Princess intended to pass the night, now wholly absorbed their minds. They had arrived within a few miles of this place, when Lemira was surprised by hearing a loud and peremptory command to stop addressed to the coachman, who immediately drew up his horses, and the carriage was instantly surrounded by a party of musqueteers wearing the uniform of the French King.

The commander of the troop advanced, and, presenting a paper to the Princess, said,

" We arrest you, Lemira, Princess of Lorraine, by the commands of his most Christian Majesty, Louis, the King of France."

Astonished and alarmed at this unexpected breach of good faith in the

Monarch, Lemira gave the lettre de cachet to the Abbé to peruse, who declared that to his inexperienced eye it appeared to be the authentic mandate of his Sovereign for the detention of her Highness, and for her safe and honorable conduct to Paris. The attendants of the Princess, alarmed at her danger, approached the door of the carriage, and entreated her permission to rescue her Highness from the power of the soldiers, professing their readiness to die in her defence: but Lemira, after a moment's pause, exclaimed in a firm voice, and without betraying any symptom of fear,

"Accept, my brave and faithful friends! the warmest gratitude of your Princess for your zealous and affectionate proposition: but learn that she will not allow any blood to be shed in her defence, and that she submits to the authority of the King

of France, even though his power is now exerted in defiance of those laws of hospitality upon which she relied."

Scarcely had she finished speaking when the Musqueteer again drew near the coach, and begged in a respectful manner that the Princess would dismiss her domestics and order the carriage to proceed, as the commands, which they had received, urged them to be quick in the execution of their duty. To Lemira's request, that the Abbé de Fleurville and Flora might be permitted to accompany her, the officer replied, that her Highness should not be deprived of the necessary services of her female attendant, but that they were compelled to separate her from the Abbé.

"You will not, surely," said Lemira, "deprive me of the consolation which I should derive from the con-

verse of this holy man during my imprisonment?"

"The authority, under which we act, empowers us to permit only one person to attend on your Highness; and the lettre de cachet will admit neither of alteration in its meaning nor of dèlay in its execution: therefore, Sir, descend, and suffer the carriage to proceed."

Compelled to obey the commands of the officer, the Abbé, as he reluctantly quitted Lemira, assured her that he would immediately seek Valmire; and, in conjunction with him, would leave no means unattempted to obtain her liberty.

Some of the soldiers now ranged themselves on each side of the coach; and Lemira, observing that two out of the number took their station at the

horses' heads, concluded that a guard was also placed in the rear to render it impossible to elude the vigilance of of her escort.

" For what purpose is all this preparation to secure a prisoner who possesses no means of escape?" mentally exclaimed the Princess, " Why is a defenceless and unoffending orphan so much the object of alarm to one of the most powerful sovereigns in the world, as to induce him to break the faith which he has pledged to her, and to violate those laws of gallantry which are of still stronger obligation in the opinion of the youthful monarch? Why, but because he has persisted in the system of tyranny commenced by his father; and, having cruelly employed his superior power in robbing my family of their possessions and their rights, he supports injustice by cowardice, and fears those whom he has

injured! Never, however, will I disgrace the long series of kings and of heroes, who are numbered among my ancestors, by weakly sinking under the effects of misfortune! The King of France may confine my person, but over my mind he can have no dominion; and, in the dark dungeons of the bastille, my spirit, free as air, will revel uncontrolled in the blissful regions of hope or of memory; will recall the glorious deeds of the sovereigns of Lorraine, or will look forward with confidence to the restitution of their kingdom, and to the termination of their miseries. The proud monarch, who attempts to grasp the globe, shall perceive that in heroism he can be surpassed by a woman; and, although his army has conquered my country, that his power is too limited to subdue the soul of Lemira de Lorraine."

Darkness had thrown her ample

veil over the earth before the carriage stopped at the post house; when the Princess was desired, by the commander of the party, to alight and pass the night in repose, under the assurance, that, within the walls of her own castle, she could not sleep in greater security, or be guarded with greater attention than in the miserable house into which she was now requested to enter.

Soon as the first dawn appeared, Lemira was awakened by a summons from the captain of the troop, who desired Flora to inform her that it was necessary for her to recommence her journey. Scarcely was she seated in the carriage when she observed that the horses' heads were turned in an opposite direction from Paris; and that the blinds of the coach were drawn up, a precaution which had not been employed on the preceding day. She was not, however, allowed time

to interrogate her guards on the cause of this change in their plans, for the postilions, who had been substituted for Lemira's coachman, urged their horses to their utmost speed, nor was she suffered again to quit the carriage until night once more brought repose to her weary eyelids. Even then the officer, as he carried her into the house, studiously avoided all discourse with his lovely captive; nor, during the many days which were thus passed in rapid travelling while the sun continued above the horizon, and in repose at night, could Lemira obtain any information on the subject of her prolonged journey or her altered destination.

In the mean time Flora had not remained an inattentive observer of the passing events; for, expressing her terror by shrieks and tears when the soldiers approached, she could not be

pacified by the explanation which was given by the Princess as to the cause of her arrest; nor be prevailed on to believe that their lives were in safety while they were retained in captivity.

" For you, Flora," said the young heroine, " no danger is to be apprehended, for you are not obnoxious to the government of France. If, however, your present situation is unpleasant to you, the soldiers will, I doubt not, restore you to liberty, for my request alone prevented them from separating you from me in the first instance."

Flora's tears were renewed by this speech, and she exclaimed,

" Indeed, my beloved lady, I deserve this reproach, for grieving and mourning at misfortunes which do not shake the fortitude of your Highness:

but forgive, I implore you, my folly and weakness: allow me to stay with you, humbly to share all your sorrows, and I will be firm and faithful until death."

The penitent girl then fell at Lemira's feet, pressing her hand fervently to her lips and to her heart; nor was the lovely Princess slow in acknowledging these marks of attachment by bestowing upon her attendant the boon which she craved.

As the travellers proceeded on their journey, Lemira observed with surprise, not altogether devoid of alarm, that they had quitted the great road, and always stopped during the night at small solitary houses, apart from every other building: but reason soon calmed any fear which might have arisen in her mind, and assured her that although Louis, actuated by a narrow-

sighted policy, might think it expedient to detain her person as a hostage, yet his injustice or cruelty would not proceed to any attempt on her life.

Every attention was shown to Lemira's comfort that could be made consistent with this plan of expedition; for refreshments were placed in the carriage; and, in the cottages, where they reposed at night, nothing was neglected conducive to her ease. The officer attended her with the most profound respect, remaining always uncovered in her presence, and standing behind her chair during her meals; while the soldiers never addressed her without paying her the compliment of removing their helmets. As the evening of the fifth day approached, Lemira became exhausted by the fatigue of incessant travelling; and over the blinds, which had been partly removed to admit air, the Princess

perceived the outlines of an ancient castle, where the coach was arrested by an order from the guard: a long and loud peal, sounded by the bugle of one of the troop, being answered from the watch-tower, the drawbridge was immediately lowered, when Lemira was gently lifted from the carriage, and deposited in the hall of the castle. Languid and faint, she yet preserved sufficient strength and presence of mind to throw her eyes around the room, which she perceived was filled with armed men; among whom the musqueteers mingled with apparent pleasure, but without betraying any disposition to levity or riot. The circumstance, however, which more particularly attracted the attention, and excited the surprise of the beautiful captive, was the different uniform worn by the soldiers of the castle, from that in which her guards were arrayed; for, dimly as

the fading light shone through the narrow casements, she thought she recognised, in the dress and bearing of the former, what was perfectly familiar to her eyes. But, while new ideas and revived recollections rushed rapidly, though indistinctly, into her mind, her sight became each moment more filmy, and a dense cloud diffused itself over her senses: before, however, every glimmering of feeling was suspended she found herself raised from the seat and transported she knew not whither; for the last ray of perception faded into darkness, and left her deprived of recollection on the breast of her supporter.

When the painful effort of nature restored recollection to the Princess, she found herself reposing under a magnificent canopy of crimson velvet ornamented with gold; and, turning

around her still imperfect vision, she beheld Flora weeping distractedly near her pillow, and saw two other women employed in chafing her temples and holding cordials to her lips. As soon as they perceived that the object of their anxiety began to revive, the strangers retired to the lower end of the room, while Flora removed her lady's upper garments, and arranged her dress and hair for the night. The women then advanced, and, having on their knee presented a cup of wine richly spiced to the Princess, arose and, making a profound obeisance, quitted the apartment.

Lemira's attention was painfully excited by every object with which she was surrounded; but, finding her ideas still confused, her mind and body weakened by suffering and fa-

tigue, she endeavoured to withdraw her thoughts from dwelling on the distressing doubts which intruded into her meditations; and, raising her soul in pious confidence to her Creator, she soon fell into a soft and refreshing sleep.

CHAP. VI.

Excusez les transports de ce cœur offensé ;
Il est né violent, il aime, il est blessé.
Je connais mes fureurs, et je crains ma faiblesse,
A des troubles honteux je sens que je m'abaisse.
VOLTAIRE.

Awaking at a late hour on the following morning, Lemira found Flora anxiously watching by the side of the bed; and, having made the morning salutation with more than usual interest and attachment to her lady, Lemira expressed to her the desire she felt to arise, although she was not entirely recovered from the fatigues of the preceding days. No sooner was her toilet completed than the women, who had before appeared, re-

turned, and, throwing open a large folding door, invited the Princess by signs to enter, and partake of a splendid breakfast which she found prepared in the next apartment; but Lemira was for some time too fully and too painfully occupied with her own reflections to feel any desire to follow their advice. Falling on a couch, she collected in her mind the events of the last night; the troops of France mingling without distrust among the soldiers of a hostile power; the want of conformity between the actions of the guard and the words of the lettre de cachet; the deference with which she had been treated; the magnificence of her present abode; and all contributed to awaken in her mind doubts of a distressing nature. It was not, however, consistent with Lemira's character to waste her time in unavailing alarms, without making an attempt to remove or establish her suspicions. For this purpose, there-

fore, she unclosed a door, opening, as she perceived, into a long gallery, where she beheld two sentinels pacing the floor with measured steps; and her worst fears were confirmed by the form and colour of their uniforms, and by the silver eagle* which blazed on their shields and helmets. The bright rays of the sun illumined various pieces of armour, foreign banners, and other warlike insignia which hung on the walls of the corridor; where, to confirm Lemira still more strongly in the belief that she was betrayed, her eye caught a view of the large Turkish standard, taken from the infidels by the valor of her persecutor, and given to him by the Emperor as a memorial of the great actions which were that day performed by his noble general. She recollected having often seen this banner, crim-

* The alerion, or heraldic eagle without beak and feet, which was the armorial bearing of the royal family of Lorraine.

soned with blood, suspended over the altar of the virgin of "bon secours," in the chapel of the Bourguignons; but never had she viewed this military trophy with those feelings of misery which now oppressed her tortured mind.

Returning into the room, she pressed her clasped hands over her eyes; and tears, which the supposed tyranny of Louis or her own danger could not excite, now rapidly chased one another down her transparent cheek, while she exclaimed with the royal psalmist,

"It is not an open enemy that has done me this dishonor; for then I could have borne it: but it was even thou, my companion, my guide, and mine own familiar friend!"

Long and bitterly she lamented that the only protector, whom Hea-

ven had spared to her youth, should employ his power to distress her; and still more severe was her anguish when she recollected that this being, who had hitherto been the object of her admiration and respect, had formed and executed a deliberate plan of fraud, which rendered him unworthy of her friendship and esteem. Secure of her personal safety, she felt no fears for herself: she felt only that sorrow, to which every good heart must be alive, when deception and unworthiness are detected where the purest virtue alone was supposed to exist.

Before the attendants returned to remove the breakfast, Lemira had recovered her self possession; and, although serenity was a stranger to her heart, its semblance was visible in her countenance. She was, therefore, enabled to address them in order to inquire respecting the situation of the

castle, to which she had been conveyed; nor did she feel any surprise on being informed by signs that they understood not the French language. Determined, however, to obtain, if possible, the knowledge which she required, Lemira spoke to them in German without better success; for, exchanging glances of astonishment, the women immediately quitted the room.

The Princess next ascertained that her prison house, situated on the margin of a broad and rapid river, was unguarded on that side except by its dark waters. On further examination of her apartment, she found that it was supplied with every thing that could conduce to her amusement; for instruments of music, books, writing and drawing materials were arranged in it with neatness; and while, by her desire, Flora sat down to complete an unfinished picture, Lemira

endeavoured to collect her thoughts for the purpose of writing a letter to the supposed author of her miseries; but scarcely had she determined to adopt this measure before the outer door unclosed, and the stranger knelt at her feet.

"Rise!" exclaimed the Princess, while the indignant blood diffused over her cheek the liveliest carnation; "Rise, nor yield the mockery of submission to the creature whom your arts have made a captive!"

He arose slowly from the ground, and remained standing near his prisoner, while his countenance exhibited an expression of dejection and humility, but ill suited to the lofty and spirited cast of his features.

"I come," at length he said, without raising his eyes from the floor,

" to solicit your forgiveness for a crime which love, the purest and the warmest that ever animated a human bosom, alone has induced me to commit. I come to tell you, that, if you withhold your pardon, my life, which has hitherto been full of tumults and alarms, will in future be rendered miserable by your cruelty."

" If your repentance be sincere," replied the lady, " discover a return of your integrity by instantly unlocking the gates of my prison. Suffer me to pursue my journey to St. Maure's in peace; and, when secure within its holy walls, I will indeed bestow on you the forgiveness of a christian; but I can never, I fear, restore to you that esteem of which your late conduct has deprived you."

" Resign you to the power of my direct enemy!" he exclaimed, while

his dark eyes, flashing fire, were suddenly raised to Lemira's face, "Never, never will I yield to another the lovely prize, won by the sacrifice of truth and honor: never will I put it in the power of fate to separate us until vows, pronounced at the holy altar, have confirmed you mine; and until you bestow on me the beauteous recompense for which I have fought and have bled! Yes, beloved of my soul! your bright image led me where the battle raged with the greatest fury; and, while marching in triumph over the bodies of my bleeding foes, the vision of Lemira seemed still to invite me to new victories, and to promise me the only reward to which my ambition aspired."

"Impute not to conduct so glorious a motive so ignoble," replied the lovely captive; "your sword was drawn for the purpose of regaining those domi-

nions of which you have been unjustly deprived; to restore to your country the privilege of being governed by its own Prince; to your subjects the benefit of a mild and liberal administration; and to the wretched a secure and honorable asylum. Oh! could my sainted father descend from his habitation of light, how would his astonishment be excited to behold the victor of Philipsburgh, the conqueror of the great Condé, the invincible foe of the infidels, become himself the slave of a wild and uncontrolled passion; and employing means to attain its object inconsistent with justice or generosity. O my friend!" she added, while tears dropped from her dark blue eyes, " it is for the degradation of one of Heaven's noblest works that I weep! it is for you, thus happy in the execution of evil, thus triumphant in the victory of your arts, that my tears flow! For myself I entertain no

fears: let me be thrown into the deepest dungeon which the prisons of the empire contain, where the pure breath of heaven never visits, and the blessed light of the sun cannot penetrate: let my arms and feet be loaded with chains, and my body be worn by famine; still will my soul, rising superior to all these horrors, pour out its thanksgiving to the great Disposer of events, provided you reassert the independence of your mind, and show, by conquering your unhappy passion, that you are not unworthy of the long line of kings and of heroes from whom you are descended. 'Arise, awake, or be for ever fallen!'" The stranger scarcely knew in what manner to reply to the heroic Princess; for, while her exalted sentiments increased his admiration, her tears interested his heart, and augmented his passion.

"Ah beloved and high souled girl!"

at length he said, " Why is thy noble mind disclosed only to excite my passion, and to enhance the value of the prize which it tells me I can never possess? Give me but reason to hope, that your heart is not unrelentingly closed against the reception of my love: tell me only that you will eventually consent to be my bride, and the doors of your prison shall fly open at my command; and a troop of soldiers shall escort you into the dominions of the French King. Speak, beloved of my soul!" he added with augmented tenderness of manner, and pressing her hand to his lips; " speak, and give me the assurance which I implore! tell me that my cause is not utterly hopeless: promise that this hand shall never be bestowed on another, and no bird that wings the air shall be more free than Lemira."

Abhorrence of artifice was so

strongly implanted in Lemira's mind, that she felt no temptation to employ it on this occasion: she, therefore, unhesitatingly replied, "Love is a lawless power, who successfully resists every attempt to clip his wings; and I would rather waste my days in captivity than obtain my liberty by the arts of deception. Admiration for your character, esteem for your virtues, united to the affection of a sister, I have hitherto felt for you; but my reason assures me that a higher and more strongly defined sentiment would be required to render you happy, possessed as you are of ardent feelings and an exalted mind. Having, therefore, declared my opinions in a manner too explicit to be mistaken, you will, I trust, find a remedy in your fortitude and glorious pursuits for a passion so fatal in its effects, and so hopeless as to its result."

"Cold, heartless girl!" exclaimed

the lover rising hastily from his seat, while passion robbed his lips of their vermillion, "and is this frigid and prudent rejection the only reward which awaits my long and ardent passion? But indulge the cruelty you delight to exercise, glory in the agonies you occasion, sport with the confusion you excite; for never shall you quit this castle until the priest has united our fates for ever!"

Having finished this sentence, he rushed out of the room to conceal from its object the feeling of misery which rent his manly breast. Flora, who, retired in a distant part of the saloon, had been a silent and wondering spectator of this scene, now advanced to arouse her lady from her melancholy meditations. Bending her knee, she gently touched with her lips the hand of her mistress; who, starting from her revery, rewarded

the kindness of her attendant with a smile. Soon, however, she again became absorbed in anxious reflections on the last declaration of the stranger, and on the possibility of escaping from his power, should he execute his threat of detaining her in captivity. To attempt to bribe the servants who waited on her would, she thought, excite the suspicions of the hero who had condescended to become her jailer, without contributing to her enlargement; for the sentinels would still remain to be gained over to her interest; the bridgewarden must be engaged to lower the drawbridge; and, laying aside the difficulties of communicating with any of these persons, she was too well acquainted with the ardent attachment, the entire devotion which the soldiers and domestics entertained for their commander, to suppose for a moment that they were capable of being tempted by gold to betray

their duty to him. Nor was she able to devise at present any more probable method of quitting her gorgeous prison; but, knowing the generosity of her lover, she trusted that he would perceive the injustice and cruelty of his conduct, and would himself unbar the doors of the castle.

Feeling still indisposed, in consequence of the agitation excited by the conversation of her lover; and, unclosing the casement for the purpose of reviving her drooping spirits with the breeze which blew freshly from the river, she was surprised to see a small boat fastened to a staple placed in the wall of the castle; and, while her thoughts were occupied with the means of escape, which this new discovery suggested to her active mind, a party of soldiers issued from the turret, and, unloosing the vessel, began their navigation across the stream.

Supposing that they would return, Lemira remained standing at the window until the evening advanced, when her expectations were fulfilled by the reappearance of the soldiers; who, fastening the boat to the wall again, entered the castle.

The Princess next examined the distance which separated the window from the water; and perceived with delight that it was not so great as to preclude the possibility of reaching the boat with the assistance of the linen of her bed. The only danger, which seemed to threaten the execution of this method of disappointing the stranger's schemes, arose from the rapidity of the current; for she reasonably feared that her strength would not be sufficient to enable her to stem the force of the waters, swollen, as they now were, by heavy rains; and, concluding that she was imprisoned on the

confines of Germany, the course of the river, without successful exertion on her part, would only lead her, as she apprehended, still further into the dominions of her enemy. Before, therefore, she attempted this hazardous enterprise, she determined to use every effort to persuade the Lord of the castle to restore her to that freedom of which he had so unjustly deprived her; and she was partly induced to adopt this resolution by the dread of involving the innocent Flora in the danger which she feared not herself to encounter; for so thoroughly was she persuaded of the attachment and fidelity of her attendant that she felt assured no entreaties would prevail on her to desist from being Lemira's companion in her perilous flight. If, however, Flora could be induced to remain in her present abode, her lady's knowledge of the stranger's character convinced her that she might

safely confide Flora to his generosity; for generous he was when his passion did not interfere, like the breath of Eurus, to blast the virtues of his excellent heart.

Lemira, therefore, would have felt less reluctance on quitting this object of her anxiety, in a moment when she was herself threatened with perpetual captivity, had she not been introduced to the notice of the daughter of Lorraine under circumstances which excited peculiar interest in her breast, and powerfully claimed the protection of her noble mind.

CHAP. VII.

Cruel as death and hungry as the grave!
Burning for blood! bony, and gaunt, and grim!
Assembling wolves in raging troops descend;
And, pouring o'er the country, bear along,
Keen as the north wind sweeps the glassy snow.
All is their prize.

THOMSON.

In the course of one of those frequent journeys which the Princess was compelled to take by the various changes in her father's affairs, she happened to stop at an inn where her attention was attracted, and her commiseration excited by hearing the shrieks and exclamations of distress uttered by a female voice. On inquiring into the cause of these afflicting sounds, she

learnt that, a few days before, two foreigners had arrived at the post house; but that they had scarcely entered the inn, when the young man was seised with a violent fever. During his illness his sister had attended him with the greatest affection, and had sold many of her garments to purchase the advice of a physician: all her cares could not, however, arrest the progress of the cruel disease, for he had terminated his short career, in her arms, on the preceding day. Her increased distress, they added, was occasioned by the necessity of removing the body for interment.

Lemira's compassion for this child of misery, who, by the death of her brother, was probably deprived of her only friend and left to struggle with poverty in a foreign land, induced her to seek an interview with the unfortunate girl. The sense of her loss

weighed so heavily on the orphan's mind, that it was long before she could be prevailed upon to visit a stranger: but when she recollected her forlorn situation, and the necessity of acquiring a protector in a country, with whose language and geography she was unacquainted, she arose and presented herself to the Princess. In the object of her benevolent solicitude, Lemira was surprised to find a girl of fifteen, who, entering the room with unaffected timidity, addressed the Princess in English. Tears perpetually fell from eyes, blue as the wing of the halcyon, while a profusion of fair ringlets curled around her face, and fell neglected over her shoulders. Her countenance, though dimmed with weeping, discovered so much innocence blended with sweetness that Lemira, without further inquiry, asked her to remain with herself as an attendant and companion. The young

girl, delighted to hear her own language which Lemira spoke with fluency and accuracy, fell on her knees, expressing her gratitude and her readiness to accompany the lovely and compassionate lady. When her sorrow had yielded to the softening effects of time, and to the consolations offered to her by her illustrious friend, she explained that her misfortunes had arisen from the disturbed state of England, where Charles the First had been condemned by the parliament to expiate on the scaffold the crimes of which he had been accused. Her father's name, she said, was Atheling; who, tracing his origin from the Saxon kings, had been reduced to maintain his family on the revenue arising from the living of Charmouth in Dorsetshire. After the restoration of Charles the Second, the pious divine, being suspected of having espoused the cause of the parliament, wås arrested, con-

demned, and executed. One of his sons, who had served in the army of Cromwell, shared the same fate; and her mother dying of grief for these dreadful calamities, her youngest brother fled to France, accompanied by herself, in hopes of escaping the ruin which had overwhelmed her unfortunate family. A sister, who had contracted an unhappy marriage, was supposed to be residing in France, where Flora hoped to meet her. The miseries, which Flora had suffered, excited the compassion of the Princess; and the innocence, integrity, and affectionate disposition, discovered in the subsequent conduct of this young girl, endeared her to her lady, to whom she was now the cause of painful embarrassment.

During the lapse of several days the stranger visited the Princess, displaying all that variety of frantic vio-

lence, mingled with the most subduing tenderness which love is capable of exciting in an ardent and impassioned mind; but still persisting in his resolution of detaining her until she should consent to reside in the court of Leopold, although she exerted every faculty of her soul to induce him to restore her to liberty. One morning, as he was quitting the room, the Princess arose from her seat, and thus addressed her desponding lover:

"Charles! I adjure thee by the relationship which subsists between us, by the friendship which we two have shared, by the protection which you owe to the defenceless orphan, to desist from persecuting me by urging a marriage, forbidden by our religion, by my father, and by the feelings of my own heart. Remember that courage in our family is not confined to men:

remember that the conduct of your mother, the [b]Princess Claude, and that of my aunts the Duchess of Orleans, and the [c]Princess of Phalsebourg, are deeply engraven on my mind. Compel me not, therefore, to follow their glorious example in courting danger to escape from captivity. Oh! is it not enough that all France is leagued against our unfortunate house? must we also take arms against each other, and assist our enemies in destroying us. Oh! recall to your recollection those happy days of childhood, when you and our sainted [d]Ferdinand guided my tottering steps, and taught my lisping tongue to pronounce your names, then so well beloved! It was you who first implanted in my mind principles of heroism; first instructed me to be firm in danger, constant in calamity, and persevering in virtue! Oh! then condemn me not for endeavouring to practise the lessons

[b] See note. [c] See note. [d] See note.

which you so wisely taught; or for preferring the chance of death to the certainty of an inglorious captivity."

For some moments Charles gazed on her sublime and speaking countenance with the warmest admiration; while the natural generosity of his disposition struggled to overcome the passion, which had for a time subdued the best attribute of his soul. But, unfortunately, every word issuing from Lemira's lips, every glance at her beautiful person overthrew his best resolutions; and not being able to endure the misery of resigning her to the power of Louis, who would, he well knew, endeavour to unite her to one of his favourite nobles; and, unable to controll the violence of his feelings, he hurried from the apartment without reply.

The shades of evening were beginning to veil half the globe when Le-

mira, whose resolution was taken, commenced disclosing to Flora the plan of her projected emancipation from the castle: but when she proceeded to detail the means by which she proposed to effect her escape, and requested her young companion to accompany her, the blood in Flora's cheek was chilled with fear; and, while tears gushed from her eyes, she implored the Princess to abandon the perilous enterprise. Finding, however, that her lady persisted in her resolution, and represented to her attendant, that the danger was not really so great as it appeared to be, she became confused and silent.

Throwing herself at Lemira's feet, she declared that her timidity would prevent her from becoming the companion of her lady's flight. "You will abhor me for my ingratitude, and despise me for my cowardice," cried the weeping girl, and to incur your dis-

pleasure is the greatest misfortune which can now befall me. But I dare not emulate my father's courage, or brave danger even in the best cause. Forgive me, dearest lady! and pity a weakness to which your own elevated mind is superior."

Lemira, raising her from the ground, assured her of pardon, and endeavoured to impart consolation to her wounded feelings by explaining to her that the enterprise, projected by herself, did not threaten so much danger as might be imagined by a superficial observer. The Princess added, that Flora had nothing to apprehend from the enmity of the Lord of the castle; who would grant her protection to Paris, where her lady expected to be speedily reunited to her.

The tone of confidence assumed by Lemira in some measure quieted the

fears that Flora Atheling had entertained for her own safety, and also for that of her beloved mistress; and she aroused herself sufficiently to render her assistance in placing in a basket those things which Lemira's cooler judgment suggested as indispensably necessary to enable her to preserve her existence during her solitary travels. All Flora's courage, however, forsook her, when Lemira with tranquil dignity issued her last commands: tears gushed in torrents down the cheeks of the unfortunate Saxon, and her sobs became so audible that Lemira was obliged to calm this violent expression of sorrow and alarm, by observing that her safety depended upon secrecy and silence; and that the slightest noise, by exciting the attention of the sentinels, might render the plan of escape abortive. Lemira had already beheld the boat occupying its accustomed place; and she now

only awaited the rising of the moon, by whose light she proposed to descend from the casement with the assistance of the linen of her bed, which was already strongly fastened to some of the heavy furniture of the room.

"At length the Queen of night unveiled her peerless front," and Lemira, attaching her little basket to a rope, let it down into the boat. She then prepared to descend herself; and, having embraced Flora and commended her safety to the Being who protects innocence, she sprung on the balustrades, and waving her hand to Flora, whose astonishment at the courage of the Princess silenced the expression of her horror, she caught the sheet, and, holding it firmly in her hands, she threw herself off the wall, and arrived in safety, although breathless in the boat. For a few minutes she sat down, to recover the power

of respiration; and then, perceiving that Flora, according to agreement, had loosened the linen, she drew it into the boat, and, severing the cord which attached the little vessel to the staple, she took up the oars and rowed herself into the middle of the stream. Regardless of the icy wind, which rudely kissed her cheek and dispersed her long and shining tresses, she cast her beautiful eyes upwards, and viewed with rapture the innumerable worlds glittering in the open firmament of heaven; and, as she enthusiastically gazed on those luminous orbs, she inhaled with the air pure draughts of liberty, and her very breath seemed conscious of recovered freedom.

Soon, however, she found her strength unequal to the management of the oars: but, as she was sensible that the exercise of rowing alone pre-

vented her from sinking under the severity of the cold, she renewed her exertions, and reached at last, in a state of much fatigue and exhaustion, the opposite bank of the river. Her spirits, however, revived when her foot again reposed on the earth; for she concluded that she should easily find a public road to conduct her without further difficulty to a village where she could procure horses, and a guide to enable her to pursue her journey. The illustrious wanderer had not recollected that a quantity of snow had fallen during the last two days; and she now, with a feeling of keen disappointment, beheld before her a glittering and trackless desert. With anxiety she threw her vision on all sides in hopes of discovering the impression of human footsteps: but no object met her quickly glancing eye, except on one side a long extended waste of snow, and on the

other the leafless trees of a large forest, whose branches glistened with pendent diamonds. What course remained for her to pursue? Should she return, and implore protection and shelter from the man whose love she had rejected, and from whose power she had joyfully escaped? Or should she proceed to the forest, where danger threatened her from the inclemency of the weather and the fury of the wolves? To decide on the immediate adoption of one of these plans her reason suggested to be absolutely necessary, for her limbs were already becoming torpid from the state of inaction in which she had now remained during the lapse of several minutes.

" And can the daughter of the great Charles," she exclaimed, " hesitate to pursue the narrow path of honor and of virtue? Return then, inglorious girl, and sue for admittance at the

gate of thy persecutor! Kneel at the feet of the proud Prince, and be spurned from thence with the ignominy which thy pusillanimity deserves! No, Father of Heaven! thou who seest the purity of my motives! thou wilt not abandon the creature who relies with confidence on thy assistance! But if it should be thy pleasure, O righteous Judge! that this night should close my short, but eventful career, O! pardon the temerity with which I have sought danger; and, if I have erred, impute it not to me as offence!"

While speaking, she took a little wine and bread from her basket; and, her strength being in some measure recruited by these aliments, she proceeded through the snow with renewed courage and a firmer step.

Accustomed from infancy to attend

the Duke of Lorraine in the chase, Lemira was able to sustain, without excessive fatigue, the long continued exercise of riding: but being unused to walk, except in the gardens of her father's palace, she became, after wandering for some hours, overcome with lassitude; and the distant, but still tremendous howling of wolves added terror to the sufferings of her body. Revolving in her mind every means of escaping their fury, if the pack continued to advance, she cast her eyes upwards to ascertain whether it would be possible to climb one of the high trees with which she was now surrounded; when, to her inexpressible joy, she imagined that she beheld the goal of all her dangers, in a light darting a tremulous ray through the branches of the forest. The Princess immediately endeavoured to guide her feet, heavy with the weight of snow, towards the spot from whence it issued: but innumerable

difficulties occurred to impede her progress through the entangled maze of the wood; and the light, which at first appeared near, seemed to retire at every step taken by the weary traveller. To add to her distress, the peculiar howl of wolves was heard to resound more distinctly through the forest; and her alarm increased every moment, lest the scent of blood should allure the full pack to follow the track of her footsteps before she could reach a place of safety. As she still continued to struggle with the thorny underwood which crossed her path, her strength forsook her, and she fell, exhausted and almost fainting, on the ground. Suddenly the full cry of the murderous animals was echoed with long, loud, and horrid reverberation through that part of the forest where Lemira reclined; who, springing on her feet, and darting forward with speed impelled by terror, beheld with

feelings of indescribable rapture the long sought for building immediately before her eyes. With frantic violence she struck the door, and, while the cry of the ferocious beasts advanced close behind her, a voice from within demanded who she was, and what led her to that retired spot at so late an hour.

"Oh, open, open!" shrieked the agonized girl, "even now the wolves press upon my footsteps."

Before the door could be unclosed, she perceived, by the light of the moon, an antelope bound by her with the swiftness of lightning, and beheld, with inexpressible horror, the whole pack of wolves in full chase, apparently closing upon the beautiful little animal. At that instant the door flew open, and no sooner had Lemira rushed in than it was shut and barred.

Breathless, from the effects of terror and fatigue, Lemira threw herself on a wooden bench placed near the dying embers of a fire; and some time had elapsed before she was sufficiently recovered to observe the being, who stood regarding her with looks of wonder and curiosity. When, however, the certainty of being safe from the danger, which had so recently threatened her life, restored her powers of recollection, she cast her eyes upwards, and a shudder passed over her frame while she contemplated the extraordinary figure of her hostess. Her stature far exceeded the common height of woman, and in her large bony person, her strong and ferocious countenance, Lemira looked in vain for one trace of feminine softness, or even for one of humanity. A single petticoat veiled limbs of immense size; and when, at the shivering Lemira's request, she threw a log

of wood on the nearly expiring fire, the Princess remarked that the hands of this ambiguous being were too large and muscular to belong to a woman. She, however, succeeded in concealing the suspicions which were painfully awakened in her bosom, by the strange appearance of her companion; and as the flame now burnt cheerfully, diffusing light and warmth through the dreary apartment, she endeavoured to banish her fears, while she prepared to recruit her wasted strength from the supplies contained in her little basket. As she spread her store on the table, and invited her hostess to partake of her slender meal, she observed that the eyes of the woman became fixed with triumphant avidity on a diamond bracelet, which the Princess had unwarily displayed by uncovering her arm.

"Who are you?" inquired the wo-

man, at last breaking silence and addressing her lovely guest in a voice corresponding with her masculine appearance, "and whence do you come?"

"An unfortunate creature benighted in the forest, who implores shelter during the hours of darkness, and a guide as soon as day dawns to the nearest town."

Ay, ay, answered the other in a tone of exultation, "shelter you shall have, and a good bed too. Behold it here:" she added, opening a sort of wooden recess in the wall, "will it please you to rest yourself?" Exhausted by fatigue, Lemira would gladly have accepted the invitation, had not her quick and watchful eye perceived, at the moment when the woman raised her arm to unclose the pannel, the shining blade of a dagger, which had

been concealed by her dress until this action rendered it visible. Lemira's suspicions of the sex and character of the being, into whose power she had placed herself, received horrible confirmation from the detection of the weapon. Thinking, therefore, that the preservation of her life depended upon her remaining awake, she resolved not to quit her present position; and, to prevent the drowsy power from lulling her senses in fatal repose, she again addressed her hostess, who seemed disappointed at Lemira's rejection of her offer, and asked, in what part of France the dwelling stood.

" In Lorraine," she replied with surprise in her looks.

" Lorraine!" repeated the Princess, in the accents of tenderness, while, with thè name, a thousand fond recollections of parent, home, and country

flushed her pallid cheek with crimson, and called into her eye the tear of blighted affection. The woman regarded her with increased curiosity: but, finding that Lemira spoke no more, she said, that she must retire to bed; as, whatever might be the taste of her guest, she had herself no inclination to sit up all night.

The absence of this extraordinary person relieved the Princess from much of her alarm; and, finding that the uneasiness of her seat prevented her from recovering the effects of fatigue, she threw herself on the bed, taking care to leave the valves unclosed. She had not long enjoyed the ease arising from a change of position, when she heard a person enter the room, treading lightly as if fearful of awaking her.

" The hour of my death is nigh!"

exclaimed she to herself while she pressed the cross to her bosom, "and may Heaven receive my soul!" Then, closing her eyes, she resigned herself to the cruel fate which threatened her.

The footsteps approached: a light was held before her eyes, and she felt, with the horror of despair, the cold dagger drawn twice across her throat. As she continued to preserve the semblance of sleep, the lantern was withdrawn; and she heard with rapture the sound of receding feet. Freed from the immediate danger of assassination, Lemira inhaled one long and deep respiration: but, assured that her breath was granted her only until the return of the murderer, she determined not to yield her life without petition or remonstrance. Scarcely had she sprung from the couch when she became fixed

in an attitude of mute horror, for she beheld the bed, on which only a moment before she had been reposing, gradually descend into the ground, until it entirely disappeared. This dreadful sight for some instants engrossed the attention of the trembling girl: but the powers of recollection soon returning to assure her, that, when the assassins had ascertained that their victim had escaped from the bed, they would quickly devise some more certain mode of executing their dreadful design, she ran to the door, purposing rather to brave the fury of the wolves than to await the savage cruelty of her own species. Her attempts to effect a retreat were, however, unattended with success; for she found that the key was taken away, and that the bars of the latticed windows were placed too close to each other to admit even her slender person through the interstices: but, unwilling

to resign the hope of escape, her delicate hands were still attempting to shake the bars, when the sound of footsteps was heard ascending a flight of stone steps which led from the vaults beneath; and instantly a party of three or four men, armed with daggers, rushed into the room. They were preparing to strike the bosom of their victim, when, assuming a composed and majestic air, Lemira exclaimed, "Take my gold and my jewels, but spare the blood of your Sovereign!"

Instantly the assassins, whose weapons were suspended in the air, suffered their arms to drop; and, stepping back, while their knees were involuntary bent, they exchanged glances of astonishment, and cried, "It is the Princess of Lorraine!"

Lemira, availing herself of the mo-

mentary consternation of the banditti, hastened to unfasten her valuable ornaments; and, while her trembling hands were thus employed, she heard the robbers engaged in a dispute of which she found herself the subject. She soon ascertained that they were in the pay and employment of the Cravates, a tribe of armed and organised banditti, who had for seven years deluged Lorraine with blood; and, as their numbers and the strength of their castles rendered the lawful arm of authority unequal to their suppression, they fearlessly continued their depredations, carrying away captive men, women, and children, and seising the produce of the land before it was reaped by the starving peasant. More rapacious than the French soldiers, and not less cruel than the wolves of the mountains were the souls of these men: but, although their ears were deaf to the voice of pity, and hu-

manity was blotted from their bosoms, yet the love and veneration, which the people of Lorraine had always entertained for their Princes, was felt even by the callous breasts of these outlaws; and they now hesitated, not whether they should spare the life of the daughter of the great Charles, but whether they should detain their captive for the purpose of extorting her ransom, or, having stripped her of her jewels, should set her at liberty. While they remained in a state of indecision, the sound of fire arms was heard without, and was succeeded by the trampling of steeds; and, as the alarmed look of the robbers assured Lemira that she had not the intrusion of an enemy to apprehend, she answered to the loud knocking at the door which followed, by exclaiming in a voice of agony, " Oh, enter, enter! break open the gate, and save, oh,

save me from death!" No second supplication was necessary, for some powerful instrument was applied to the portal, which the Cravates seemed at first disposed to defend; but when it flew open, and discovered the glittering armour of a large body of soldiers, the assassins instantly and hastily fled.

Great was the astonishment of the troop, who now filled the room, to behold the beautiful apparition which stood before them. Her light figure seemed almost raised from the earth: her long dark tresses streamed wildly over her blood stained garments; while the sublime expression of her dark blue eyes was mingled with the wandering glances of excessive terror. Surprise and admiration for some time chained the tongues of the soldiers; but at length an officer, ad-

vancing from the group, exclaimed, "Who? and whence art thou, beauteous vision?"

"Who I am," replied Lemira, resuming with her presence of mind that air of superiority which was peculiar to the family of Lorraine, "is of little consequence to my deliverers. It is sufficient for them to know that I am a woman, and in distress; and by their knighthood they are bound to protect me."

"With our lives!" cried a tall officer who had not before spoken; and the promise was echoed with enthusiasm by the united voices of the troop, while their polished sabres, as they waved them over the head of the Princess, illumined the chamber with their brightness.

"There, there!" exclaimed Lemira,

pointing to a distant part of the room, and at the dreadful recollection the paleness of her cheek became more livid, " there even now stood a bed; which, as my eyes were fixed upon it, sunk into the ground beneath. Under the floor are vaults inhabited by robbers; who, anxious only for spoil, spare not even the helplessness of infancy.'

" Away!" shouted the officer who had at first spoken, while the other remained silently gazing on Lemira, " Seek the dens of these beasts of prey, and make them pay the forfeit of their lives as a penalty for the crimes which they have perpetrated!"

To execute the threatened vengeance, they were then rushing from the room, when Lemira, waving her hand, exclaimed, " Stop! O stop! Although generally deaf to the voice of supplication, the outlaws listened

to mine, and spared my life when it was in their power."

The tall knight, now awaking from his state of abstraction, ordered his men to desist. "As soon as the morning's dawn enables us to proceed in safety through the wood," he added, "some of our party shall escort this lady to a place of safety: the rest of the troop may remain here to punish the horrible barbarity of the robbers, whose bloody intentions our arrival has so happily defeated. To this throne of excellence let us now bend our knees: around this standard of loveliness let us wave our unsheathed weapons; and, should any danger threaten her life, let us, like valiant knights, defend it, until the last drop of our blood shall be expended in the service."

With one accord the whole troop

of warriors, following the example of their commander, knelt to the Princess, and vowed on their crossed swords to employ them in her protection. The voice of the knight who had last spoken, and whose snowy plumes towered far above those of his companions, powerfully awakened Lemira's attention: but, as his beaver was lowered, her hopes could receive neither confirmation nor disappointment from a view of his features. She remarked also with surprise, that he alone of all his band remained with his head covered: soon, however, when he had placed her on the wooden bench where the warriors had laid their furred mantles to supply her with a softer couch, she became faint and languid with the exertions which she had been compelled to make, and closed her observations by sinking into a broken and disturbed slumber. Still, as her dreams presented to her the de-

scending bed or gleaming dagger, the gentle bands of sleep would be broken by the terrific vision; and, starting from the couch with a wild shriek, she would perceive the knight with the white scarf hovering near her, and would hear the soft whisper with which he endeavoured to tranquillize her fears; while, standing in a circle round her couch, she beheld the soldiers erect, and firmly clasping their shining sabres. Then, in confidence and security, she again closed her heavy eyelids; and fancied that Mellidor's sword was waved over her head, and at the sight of the burnished weapon that the Cravates had fled in terror and dismay. No sooner had Aurora tinted the eastern sky with red, than the Princess was respectfully informed that the hour destined for the commencement of their journey had arrived: but still unequal to the exertion of riding alone, she was placed

upon one of the dragoons' horses, where she was supported by the commander of the troop, until they stopped at a small village. By the woman of the house the Princess was then attended to her chamber, where, throwing her weary person on the bed which had been prepared for her accommodation, she did not again quit it until two days rest had completely restored her to ease and tranquillity.

CHAP. VIII.

And, instead of rage,
Deliberate valour breathed, firm and unmoved
With dread of death to flight or foul retreat.
MILTON.

PROFESSIONAL duties occupied so much of Mellidor's time after his arrival at Joinville, that a very small portion of it remained to be employed in the instruction, or passed in the society of Rosalie; and she soon discovered that those studies and pursuits, which had appeared delightful when explained by her brother, became tedious and difficult when pursued without the assistance of his enlightened mind. The book or the

pencil was often thrown aside with disgust during the long and frequent absences of her beloved tutor; who observed with regret, that her habits of inattention were more deeply rooted than he had anticipated. Sometimes too she secretly lamented the deep solitude of her abode, and her youthful heart panted to look into that world of amusement which her imagination had painted in glowing colours.

In constant employment Mellidor found the only solace of which his misery was susceptible; for, when alone or inactive, his fancy seemed to present to the eye of his too sensitive mind the still bleeding body of Villeron. Night, which brought repose to others, to him was the season of peculiar suffering, for sleep never visited his heavy eyelids unaccompanied by terrific visions, in which he

beheld the despair of Melanie, heard the last groan of St. Amand, and saw the disembodied spirit of his unfortunate, but guilty antagonist.

His surprise was also powerfully excited by the silence of the Abbé, who had promised to give him early and frequent accounts of the Princess and of Melanie; for though he felt only pity for the latter, while his reason upbraided him for entertaining a hopeless passion for the former, he could not divest his mind of the solicitude occasioned by these different feelings, nor speak peace to his soul until assured of their safety. As the husband of another he had studiously banished the image of Lemira from his heart; but, released as he now was from his former engagements, he no longer deemed it criminal to harbour the beloved guest: though, destitute of fortune, with a mind broken

by misery and remorse, with health impaired by suffering, he indulged no hope of success to cheer his gloomy prospect; and he had determined, if any accident should again throw him into Lemira's society, firmly and constantly to avoid a disclosure of his passion.

Some time had thus passed away, when the Vicomte, one day entering his sister's cabinet, informed her that he was ordered to command an expedition, which was likely to detain him from her for a few days: but, fearing to awaken in her affectionate heart any fears for his safety, he withheld from her the knowledge of the nature of the intended commission.

Leagued bands of armed adventurers had seised on castles weakly garrisoned by the French, after the first expulsion of the Duke Charles from Lorraine; and so ably were

these castles defended, and so strongly were they fortified, both by the ability of the inhabitants and their elevated site, that they had hitherto defied the opposing strength of the troops of France. When the Duke was surprised, and driven a second time from his kingdom, the numbers of the Cravates were powerfully increased by his soldiers, who, rather than serve under a foreign Prince, joined the standard of those unlicensed marauders, whose bloody incursions produced the most direful effects on the inhabitants of their unhappy country. So terrible had been the cruelty of these robbers, that the people, fearing to attract their rapacity, and knowing that the corn which they sowed, and the cattle which they purchased, would serve only to stock the castles of the Cravates, desisted from practising the arts of husbandry, and were shortly reduced, by the consuming effect of

famine, to distress almost too dreadful for the pen of the historian to trace. Crimes, the horrid offspring of this devastating power, terrible in their nature and consequences, were committed without compunction or remorse; for even natural affection was banished from the hearts of the sufferers, and women devoured without shuddering the flesh of their own infants! The cries of the people of Lorraine, for protection against the authors of so much misery, had once more penetrated to the throne of Louis; who had accordingly issued a command to the troops at Joinville to watch their movements, to give them battle, and to seise upon their castles, where French soldiers were to be stationed, and the banditti removed, under a strong escort, to the nearest prisons in France. To prevent any unnecessary effusion of blood, Mellidor had set spies on the actions of

these men; and, to make his victory still more secure, he induced one of his faithful followers to enter their strongest fort disguised in the habit of a minstrel, a character which his musical knowledge rendered him peculiarly adapted to support. As soon as the Cravates issued from the portal to commit their nightly depredations, the disguised knight contrived, amid the revelry of those who remained in the garrison, to mingle some soporific drug with their wine; and, when they were buried in slumber, the supposed minstrel, lowering the drawbridge and unclosing the gates of the castle, admitted Valmire with his troop; who, securing the senseless robbers, delivered them to a party, stationed without, to convey them to prison. The castle being thus quietly and silently surprised, the Vicomte hastened to command the drawbridge to be raised, the ramparts to be

manned, the cannon to be loaded, and the whole fort to be placed in a state to resist the expected attack of the enemy. His measures were not, however, confined to the business of defence; for he stationed a large body of men in ambush, who were to attack the Cravates in the rear, while the guns from the ramparts assailed them in front.

It was scarcely possible for a plan formed with so much judgment to fail, and although the surprised banditti, knowing that, if they lost the battle, they must expiate their crimes, and terminate their lives by the tortures of the rack, fought with a desperation which left Mellidor few prisoners, yet the victory was won by his troops; and, when the sun arose on the following day, it shone on the white flag waving to the breeze on the turret of the castle.

In liberating the prisoners, confined in narrow and loathsome dungeons, binding up the wounds of his soldiers, and burying the dead bodies, the day was nearly consumed; and evening had approached before the young warrior, having left a sufficient force to guard the castle, rode through the portal with his division, and directed his march by a short and little frequented road to Joinville.

For some hours they had pursued their way without encountering any obstacle: but when they had advanced into the forest, the guide, actuated either by ignorance or treachery, declared that he had missed the right path; but that he could still conduct them to a house where they might wait until the dawn of day. Mellidor, and the officer who accompanied him, suspecting the faith of the guide, placed him in the centre of

the regiment, threatening to punish him with immediate death if he attempted to betray them to the Cravates. The sinister expression of the man's face was quickly converted into terror, when the howling of the wolves, from whom Lemira had escaped, struck his ear. The voracious appetites of these animals, unsatiated by the antelope with whose blood their horrid jaws were stained, assembled round the dragoons, uttering deep and savage howls, and showing their teeth, reddened by their recent carnage: but the soldiers were too large a body to feel any alarm for the result of a battle with these monsters, and the event justified their expectations; for, on the repeated discharge of their carbines, the enemy were either killed or dispersed, and the conquerors arrived in safety at the door of a house, the ruinous appearance of which promised small internal comfort.

But, gracious Heaven! what voice was that, which, in the accents of alarm, implored them to force open the door to save her threatened life? Its resemblance to those dear, soft tones, which were eternally engraven on Mellidor's heart, excited his astonishment: but although his reason assured him that the supplicating being could not be the revered Princess, yet the voice was that of distress, and no time ought to be lost to give her the protection of their swords. Without a moment's delay, therefore, he commanded his soldiers to break open the door, when he indeed beheld Lemira in the attitude in which she has been already described!

Deprived of the power of speaking or moving by the excess of terror and surprise, he gazed, with wildness and distraction in his mien, on the lovely figure which the unclosing door pre-

sented to his eyes; and many minutes elapsed ere he could recall his reason sufficiently to convince him that he beheld not a dreadful vision conveyed through the medium of a distempered brain. Nor, until he had learnt from herself that the blood on her dress proceeded from slight wounds inflicted by the thorns in the forest, could he regain his self possession, or believe the object of his impassioned solicitude secure from impending peril. Delicacy then produced the same effect that had been before occasioned by alarm; and the beaver, which concealed his features, concealed also the expression of those agitating thoughts which were passing to and fro in his mind. It was not until the eyes of the illustrious orphan were closed in slumber that he removed his beaver to inhale a freer respiration; and, while gazing on the lovely sleeper with a countenance beaming the ten-

derest love, he anxiously hushed the whispers of his companions in arms, lest the sound should interrupt her repose; and reassured her trembling spirits, when the scenes of the preceding hours, recurring in her dreams, alarmed her from her slumbers.

Even when the party had arrived at the termination of their first day's journey, and Mellidor was assured that Lemira had retired to the enjoyment of the sweet repose, resulting from a conviction of security, he could scarcely prevail on himself to quit the house which contained his soul's treasure: but imperious duty commanded his instant return to the forest, for the purpose of delivering to the arm of justice those miscreants who had attempted the life of the Princess of Lorraine. Having, therefore, consigned her with a throbbing heart to the care of the hostess, and

delicacy suggesting that a companion of her own sex would be agreeable to her, he despatched a dragoon with a letter to Rosalie, requesting her attendance, with that of Madame de Clairville, on the Princess, who awaited her arrival at the village, to which he intended quickly to return.

Rosalie's curiosity was powerfully awakened by this sudden and unexpected summons, which she joyfully prepared to obey: but, as the darkness rendered it dangerous for them to travel, Madame de Clairville postponed the commencement of their journey until the next day; and, when the wheels of the carriage passed slowly over the broken and rugged road, Rosalie had ample leisure to reflect on her brother's letter and the interesting acquaintance to whom she was to be introduced. In her hitherto unvaried life, any circumstance, deviating from

the noiseless tenor of her way, formed a new era in her existence; and, long before she reached the place of her destination, her lively fancy had arrayed the lady, who was to be her friend and companion, in every beauty which can charm the eye, and in every excellence which can engage the heart. When, therefore, she found her brother just returned from the successful execution of his project against the banditti of the forest, she overwhelmed him with questions respecting the Princess of Lorraine: but as she had not quitted her chamber, Mellidor's answers only more strongly confirmed Rosalie's eager curiosity. She was obliged, however, to defer its gratification until from Lemira herself she could obtain the information which she so ardently desired.

"When the Princess is well enough to see us," said the Vicomte, "she

will perhaps favour us with an account of those extraordinary incidents, that have placed her in the alarming situation from which we were so fortunate as to rescue her Highness: but at present I beg that she may not be fatigued by questions; and from you, my sweet Rosalie! I shall expect the utmost regard to her wishes, and an attention due to her rank and her misfortunes."

Mellidor had no occasion to reiterate his commands to his sister to observe a kind and respectful behaviour to the Princess; but the other part of his expressed wishes it was more difficult for Rosalie to obey; and determined, at least, to indulge herself with a view of the interesting stranger, she softly unclosed the door, and, creeping silently to the side of the bed, gently withdrew the curtains, at the moment when, refreshed with her long rest, Le-

mira opened her eyes on the suddenly blushing face of the stranger, who was intently gazing on her.

"I know not to whom I am indebted for this kind visit," said the Princess, rejoiced to see herself attended by a young and lovely girl, "or how I can reward you for your goodness to a stranger and a fugitive."

"By loving me," rapturously exclaimed Rosalie; "if indeed," she added, lowering her tone, "you can feel affection for a being so careless and ignorant as I am; but I will endeavour to improve and make myself worthy of yours and of Mellidor's love."

"Mellidor!" exclaimed Lemira in the tone of surprise, "That name recalls to my recollection a nobleman to whom I am much indebted."

"It is the name of my brother, the Vicomte de Valmire," replied Rosalie proudly; "and if your Highness had before any cause of gratitude to him, you must now add another column to your list of obligations, for Mellidor it was who commanded the troop of soldiers which rescued you from the cruel banditti, and conveyed you here, that I might have the pleasure of nursing you into health."

"Valmire again!" whispered Lemira to herself, "it must be by the immediate direction of Providence that Valmire is always near when I am assailed by danger. I will arise," she added aloud, "and thank my deliverer in person."

"Will you allow me the honor of being your handmaid," asked Rosalie timidly, "or would your Highness prefer the attendance of my women?"

The Princess accepted the proffered services of Rosalie's attendant; and, finding that the Vicomte, for the purpose of affording her the protection of persons of her own sex, had sent for his sister, Lemira immediately declared that she was sufficiently recovered from her late fatigues to accept Rosalie's invitation; and dismissed her to inform Mellidor that she would soon be ready to attend her friends to Joinville. It was fortunate for Lemira that her youth and beauty superseded the necessity of ornament; for her little packet contained only a few articles of linen, and, in consequence of Rosalie's fairy height and size, she could not derive any benefit from her young friend's wardrobe: she was obliged, therefore, to appear in the pelisse which she had worn on her travels through the forest, torn and sullied as it was.

Lemira's cheek was still pale as the first flower of spring; but the warm tide of life had returned to her lips, and her eyes beamed with the mingled expression of intelligence and sweetness, while, extending her hand to Mellidor, she exclaimed, "How am I to find words sufficiently powerful to declare my gratitude to him who has now twice preserved my life?"

"Speak not of gratitude, noble Princess!" Mellidor replied, while his varying colour and the tremulous tones of his voice discovered his agitation; "but rather let me bless the accident which has introduced to my Rosalie a lady whose acquaintance I have long and ardently desired to procure for her."

He then led her to a seat near Rosalie; and, placing himself by her side,

expressed in the tenderest accents his hopes, that the danger from which she had escaped would not materially affect her delicate frame; and he continued to gaze on her as if he thought that she was not yet free from impending peril.

CHAP. IX.

Who never loved, ne'er suffered; he feels nothing
Who nothing feels but for himself alone;
And when we feel for others, reason reels,
O'erloaded, from her path, and man runs mad.
Love only feels the marvellous of pain;
Opens new veins of torture in the soul,
And wakes the nerve where agonies are born.
THE BROTHERS.

WHEN the carriage appointed to convey Madame de Clairville and the young friends to Joinville was announced, Mellidor, after attending Lemira to the steps, mounted his war caparisoned charger; and, sometimes indulging himself by conversing with her at the window of the coach, sometimes riding on to clear away any im-

pediment which might occur to obstruct the progress of the travellers, he arrived only a few minutes before them at the place destined for their nocturnal repose. He had sent Bernard to Joinville to prepare his servants for the reception of the Princess; and had also despatched a dragoon to order the post house to be made as comfortable as its nature would permit. In consequence of these precautions, a blazing fire, and a supper, which, although not sumptuous or elegant, was joyfully welcomed by the cold and famished travellers, awaited their arrival.

Rosalie, who, during the excursion of the morning, had won Lemira's approbation by her artless and affectionate manners, with all the unsuspecting character of extreme youth, concluded that her new friend possessed every excellence because she saw that she was endowed with every

charm; and, now seated between Lemira and her brother, she gave way to all the transporting effects of innate happiness, while her glowing spirits, and the presence of the Princess, banished, with the remembrance of the past and the anticipation of the future, the gloom from the fine face of Mellidor, and warmed it into smiles and bloom. Although many anxious thoughts and saddening recollections pressed heavily on Lemira's mind, she strove, not without success, to be cheerful: but for some time her gaiety was like "an April morn, clad in a wintry cloud;" until at last the brilliancy of her intellect shone from beneath that cloud, irradiating her conversation, adding the charm of refined wit to the pleasures of the evening, and drawing still closer the chains which bound Mellidor's heart.

When Valmire, however, retired to the solitude of his chamber, he recol-

lected with surprise that Lemira had been entirely silent on the subject of those still unexplained circumstances which had led her, alone and unprotected, to the house in the forest: but, after much anxious reflection, he determined that the events were too painful in their nature, and too recent in their occurrence, to be related without much distress to her feelings. When day, however, succeeded day, and the Princess recovered her health and apparent ease without giving him the desired information, he became thoughtful and silent, nor could he satisfactorily interpret a silence so extraordinary and mysterious.



One evening, when the Vicomte had particularly observed that Lemira had anxiously eluded the subject which had engrossed his attention, he was suddenly aroused from his consequent abstraction by Lemira's inquiring whe-

ther he had lately received any intelligence of the Abbé de Fleurville. Finding from Mellidor's reply that he had had no communication with the Abbé since he had quitted Dijon, and that the Vicomte was, therefore, unacquainted with Melanie's unaccountable absence, she expressed her astonishment at the Abbé's silence, but deferred an explanation of those circumstances which had occurred at Dijon since Mellidor's departure from that city, until she could find the Vicomte alone.

On the following morning, when the breakfast was removed and Rosalie had retired with Madame de Clairville to her own apartment to pursue her studies, Mellidor, contrary to his usual custom, lingered in the room, but without making any attempt to interrupt the embarrassing silence which had succeeded the hitherto

lively conversation. At last Lemira again spoke of Fleurville, and Mellidor inquired where her Highness had left him.

"We parted," replied the Princess, "two stages from Dijon, on the road to Paris."

"But the house in which I found you is situated on the verge of one of those great forests which adorn your own fertile country of Lorraine!" exclaimed Mellidor with undisguised astonishment. Lemira's countenance expressed embarrassment, and the idea of being suspected of the meanness of prevarication was so new and so humiliating to her feelings, that her confusion became every minute more distressing; and, while it covered her face with the crimson of indignation, it chained her powers of utterance:

but at last, looking up, she perceived Mellidor's eyes fixed on her with an expression of surprise and alarm, which heightened the painful glow on her cheek.

"If my character and conduct have not raised me above the Vicomte de Valmire's suspicion," said Lemira to herself; "if after all he has known, and all he has heard of me, he still dares to suppose that I would descend to employ evasion, he is not worthy of being undeceived."

"With a strong effort, Lemira now recovered her composure; and, renewing the conversation at the point where it had been interrupted by Valmire's unfortunate observation, she said, that, as the Abbé had quitted her with the assurance of immediately seeking the Vicomte, she had concluded that he

was acquainted with those events which it was now her painful task to impart to him.

She then related to him Melanie's behaviour after the termination of his trial; her inflexible desire of seclusion; her calm acquiescence in her husband's wishes respecting the divorce; and, lastly, her sudden and mysterious disappearance. Although this account sensibly affected Mellidor's feeling heart, yet he derived consolation from the conviction that no disclosure, made by him, had occasioned the desperate measure, or had driven from her paternal home the victim of dishonor. After duly considering the various circumstances related by the Princess, Mellidor's ideas coincided with hers on this perplexing subject; and, entertaining the supposition that Melanie still lived, they concluded that Abbeville would

obtain some intelligence of her when the large sum of money, which she had taken away with her, should be expended. They agreed in imagining that the unhappy fugitive had either placed herself in a convent with the design of taking the veil, or had retired to some spot of peculiar seclusion, for the purpose of indulging her tears and concealing her disgrace. While Valmire, unacquainted with the determined selfishness of her character, pitied and forgave her, Lemira was urged only by a strong sense of duty and gratitude to St. Amand still to seek, with the intention of consoling, this criminal being: for had she not with inexorable cruelty concealed those circumstances, the divulging of which could alone preserve from unmerited punishment that generous man who now lamented her errors and compassionated her misfortunes?"

The benevolence and refinement of

St. Amand's mind next became the subject of their discourse; and the disastrous events, which had occurred during their residence under his roof, passed in dreadful array and rapid succession before them: but when Mellidor reverted with a throbbing heart and glowing cheek to the night on which Lemira's courage and presence of mind arrested the blow intended by Melanie to terminate his existence, he exclaimed, "Among all the events of my short but unhappy life, that one moment was alone unobscured with a cloud; and, like the ray of the diamond, it diffused around it the reflection of its own brightness. It was indeed luminous, visionary, and transient!"

As he spoke, his eyes fell on Lemira's countenance with an expression of hopeless and despairing love. But she, either unconscious of its meaning,

or wishing to appear so, instantly arose from her seat, saying, that she had too long neglected some letters of importance; and that she would, therefore, now put a period to a conversation, which contributed rather to weaken and depress their minds than to fortify or improve them.

In her letter to the Duchess of Orleans, the Princess signified her intention of proceeding to Paris as speedily as her present fatigue would permit: for her late adventure had induced her to change her design of residing at St. Maure's; and, believing that she could find security only under the immediate protection of Louis, she resolved to resign her wish of temporary seclusion, and to pass at once into the splendid court of the King of France. She wrote, under the same cover, to Flora commanding her to await the arrival of her lady at the

Palais d'Orleans. Scarcely had the Princess completed this necessary business, when Rosalie appeared, to invite her to enjoy with her in the open air the gleams of sunshine which were now darting through the casement. As they proceeded round the narrow space, assigned by Mellidor as the boundary of his sister's walks, she entertained Lemira with the history of Valmire's virtues; and lamented, in the ardent language of affection, that those military duties, which now occasioned his frequent absence from home, would soon entirely separate him from her; and, while they exposed his precious life to danger, would bereave her of her guide, her protector, and her friend. With all that ingenuousness of character which is ignorant of the existence of deceit, with all that freshness of mind which, like the bloom of the plum, wears off by a contact with the world, Rosalie dis-

played every feeling of her heart to the Princess; who inquired with interest into her studies and attainments, and drew from her an artless confession of her brother's constant attention to her improvement, and of her own idleness during his constrained absence. Pleased with her candor and naïveté, Lemira promised to give her instruction when the Vicomte was engaged in the duties of his profession; adding, however, that her stay at Joinville would be too short to allow her lessons to be of any material service to Rosalie.

"And will you indeed deign to instruct my ignorance when Mellidor is absent, and endeavour to render me less unworthy of his love?" she cried, tenderly pressing Lemira's hand: "But oh! now when my solitude is enlivened by the society of a friend, do not talk of quitting us, nor leave

me again a prey to idleness and lamentation!"

Mellidor had already made his sister acquainted with some traits of Lemira's history, from which Rosalie had imbibed the highest admiration of the Princess's noble and elevated character; and the kindness of her manner, combined with the charms of her conversation, completely won the affections of this genuine child of nature. The only fear that disturbed her present enjoyment was, that she should soon be deprived of her amiable companion; and she, therefore, employed all her powers of persuasion to extort a promise from Lemira of remaining at Joinville until her brother was ordered upon active service, and then to visit them in their retreat in Languedoc. From the Princess, however, whose plans were already fixed, she could obtain only the ex-

pression of hopes congenial to her own; and the assurance that, although she was determined to go to Paris in the first instance, she would endeavour to procure a house near Les Délices, where she would reside the greater part of the year. Rosalie's fears of a final separation were calmed by this promise; and she was still more rejoiced when she heard the Princess mention the subject to Valmire, and inquire if it were likely that she could purchase a small estate situated only a few miles from Rosalie's abode.

Delighted with the proposition the Vicomte replied, that, when he last quitted Languedoc, a castle with a surrounding domain, commanding a view of the Mediterranean, was offered for sale; but, as the gentleman to whom it belonged was now at Paris, any further information could easily be obtained. He was authorized by

Lemira to make the necessary inquiries, adding, that a castle, such as he had described, was precisely the residence which she should prefer.

This arrangement rendered Rosalie nearly as happy as she could be: her glowing fancy again revelled among the vineyards and corn fields of Languedoc; and she looked forward with rapture to the period when she should enjoy their laughing beauties in the society of her lovely and noble minded friend. But this pleasurable anticipation was not peculiarly indulged by Rosalie; for Mellidor's imagination was also active in forming a picture equally brilliant in its tints, although not so durable in its materials. The harsh voice of the trumpet, as he soon recollected, would call him from the delights of peace, and from the sweet converse of the cherished object of his affections.

One day when Rosalie had left the room to bring some of Mellidor's paintings for Lemira's inspection, he expressed his gratitude to the Princess for her kindness to his sister; and added, that, with such an instructor in nobleness and goodness, he could not doubt his Rosalie's improvement.

"You are surely very indulgent," replied Lemira with a look of haughty indifference, "to intrust your sister's mind to the care of a person, whom you suspect of being capable of employing artifice to conceal some disgraceful transaction!"

"Circumstances have displayed too much of your real character to my knowledge to allow me to entertain an opinion so degrading to its nobleness," said the Vicomte, colouring deeply; "I suppose, therefore, that

your silence on that subject, both interesting and mysterious, is occasioned by your deeming me unworthy of your confidence."

"M. Valmire," said Lemira after a pause, during which she appeared to be buried in profound reflection, "I am under the painful necessity of recalling to your mind, that you have been placed in a situation where you conceived it right to preserve silence, even with your best friends: I only implore you to believe, that a woman may be actuated by motives equally honorable, when she observes a similar line of conduct."

The lofty expression of her countenance gradually yielded to one more tender, when Mellidor fervently exclaimed, "I do believe that your conduct can be governed only by the purest and most noble principles."

Weeks thus passed rapidly away: but while fresh roses bloomed on Lemira's cheek, and health and happiness awoke new beauties in her speaking countenance, Mellidor discovered, every day in this noble girl, some talent to excite his admiration, or some virtue to command his esteem; and the passion, which had been founded on imagination, was reared and established by reason. He had now seen the character of the Princess displayed in a variety of trying situations, nor knew he in which to assign her the preference. When he first beheld her flying from danger, he had thought her beautiful and interesting; but when he heard her pleading for the release of her father's body, and viewed the sacrifice which she was willing to make, to obtain funeral rites for his revered ashes, her sublime piety, her elevated mind, her heroic but modest courage, enthroned her in his

esteem as a being belonging to a superior order. When he subsequently saw her acting as the protecting angel of himself and St. Amand's daughter, the consoler of the unfortunate, and the comforter of the wounded mind, his heart became deeply interested, and his admiration of her increased; and now when he observed her, unexcited by any extraordinary incidents, in the soft intercourse of common life, his love was almost imperceptibly but powerfully engaged by her sweetness, her virtues, her talents, and her charms. With all the romantic excess natural to his character, he nourished this passion into maturity; nor suffered his thoughts to dwell on the separation, which would soon awaken him from his day-dream of happiness; and, by depriving him of the object of his love, plunge him into despair. He entertained no hopes of being blessed with Lemira's affection,

for she appeared to treat him with the ingenuousness and confidence of friendship, and not to conceal from him any sentiment of her heart, where, he therefore feared, no trace of earthly passion existed. She thought of him as a friend, and spake of him as her benefactor: but having seen the fatal effects of love on the fortunes of her house, and on the character and happiness of the invincible stranger, she considered it rather as an imperious tyrant than as a gentle inmate; and she successfully struggled against the first inroads of this seducing passion. She was resolved to assert the independence of her mind, and to keep her bosom's lord in subjection to reason.

Born in tumult and nursed in the lap of war, she had early been accustomed to assist, during the Duke's absence, in the government of Lor-

raine, and to direct the domestic arrangements of her father's court. With Charles she was the constant advocate of the unfortunate, the chosen mediatrix between the people and their sovereign; and, while her mind was engaged by these elevated duties, and by the endeavour to ward off the misfortunes, which at last overwhelmed her parent, "love spread his glad wings" in vain, and dared not to enter a heart occupied by such sacred cares.

Mellidor was aroused, at length, from the contemplation of the airy structure which he had been erecting, by Lemira; who entering the room one morning, when it was occupied only by himself, with a smile thus addressed him, "Have you enough of the spirit of chivalry about you to induce you to grant a lady's request without consulting your own convenience?"

The Vicomte blushed at this sudden question; but immediately replied, while his lips were wreathed by one of his sweetest smiles:

"No command of the Princess of Lorraine can be disobeyed by her knight, even should the fabled dragon again revive, to tempt her to try his prowess in the difficult enterprise of subduing a monster."

"Unfortunately, however," cried the Princess, laughing, "neither dragon nor 'blatant beast*' exists to assay the sincerity of your words, or to prove the might of your invincible arm. The tremendous request is only, that you will consent to part from Mamselle de Valmire for a few months, as the Duchess of Orleans has invited her to accompany me to Paris."

* Spenser.

To have his sister introduced into the world under the auspices of the Duchess of Orleans, and in the society of the Princess, was the event which Mellidor would most ardently have wished to effect; and he now received Lemira's proposal with the acknowledgment of a grateful heart.

"Since you approve my design," said Lemira, "I will lose no time in mentioning the subject to Rosalie, as it is my wish to commence my journey to-morrow."

"To-morrow!" repeated Mellidor, while the heightened colour of his cheek suddenly yielded to the paleness of death: but Lemira saw not his emotion, for she was already gone to seek Rosalie; with whom she returned into the room before Mellidor had recovered from the electric shock, which the sudden communication of

her immediate departure had imparted to the sensibility of his love. The delight which sparkled in Rosalie's eyes, and the serenity of Lemira's countenance, he could not, however, behold unmoved; and, rushing out of the room, he sought the solitude of his own apartment for the purpose of indulging his unparticipated sorrow. In a few minutes the bustle of preparation caught his ear; and, forming a strong contrast to the desolation of his own feelings, more forcibly recalled to his mind all that he was about to lose. He was then going to be deprived of her who had rendered the few last weeks of his life bearable, nay happy; and the perfect indifference with which she had announced her intention discovered that she sympathized not in his regrets.

The delusion was now withdrawn from Mellidor's mind; and he disco-

vered, too late to regain any portion of his last peace, that he had unconsciously indulged hopes, which, dissolving "like the baseless fabric of a vision, left not a rack behind." From absence he expected no beneficial result to his own tranquillity, for he felt that the passion, which first actuated his heart, could only be expelled by the icy grasp of death; nor could he hope, that the indifference, which his presence had failed to subdue in the object of his love, would yield during the hours of separation. "Her mind is elevated above the feeling of human passion," he exclaimed; "her tenderness is all directed into another channel, and none is reserved for the wretched Mellidor! Love," he added, starting from his seat, "love refuses to crown me with a myrtle wreath: but the garland of laurel may encircle my victorious brow. Hence then,

ye idle murmurs; and let me follow the path into which glory urges my tardy feet."

Rosalie now entered his room, and, perceiving the traces of recent agitation on his face, she attributed it to sorrow at her departure; and, throwing herself into his arms, she burst into tears. "Are you not happy then," he said, "my beloved Rosalie! in accompanying the Princess, and being introduced into that society from which you have been hitherto debarred?"

"O Mellidor, my dearest brother! were you to go with me, I should indeed be blessed."

Valmire endeavoured to comfort her: but when he thought that perhaps the event of the war would separate him from her for ever, he could

scarcely refrain from mingling his tears with hers. He, however, conquered this unmanly exhibition of feeling; and having consoled her, by suggesting the hope of again seeing her, before his regiment was ordered upon active service, he descended with her into the saloon.

"The Duchess of Orleans informs me," said the Princess entering the room, "that it is confidently affirmed at court, that the expedition on which the army was to be employed is abandoned for the present, and that the forces will soon be collected into winter quarters."

In consequence of this intelligence Rosalie's black eyes were illumined with joy; and, throwing her arms round her brother's neck, she exclaimed, "Oh! then we shall not part for any long period, and you will follow us to Paris to enjoy its pleasures,

and to be the guide and protector of simple Rosalie."

While Mellidor pressed her to his breast, he said smiling, "I am glad to find that the Princess has not entirely robbed me of your affection, my Rosalie!"

"No person, however lovely or excellent, can deprive you of my affection, Mellidor! nor is my heart capable of containing love superior to that which I feel for you, my kind and gentle brother!"

Tears dimmed Lemira's expressive countenance at this effusion of affection; but Mellidor softly said, "We shall perhaps hear her recant that assertion, before my little rustic has spent many months in Paris."

Rosalie, however, continued to assert, and Mellidor to remain incredu-

lous; and, just as Lemira was called upon by her friend to take a share in the argument, and Mellidor was anxiously waiting to learn her opinion upon a subject assimilating to one which was particularly interesting to him, the door flew open, and the Abbé de Fleurville caught his young friend in his embrace. It was a moment which Lemira would have gladly prolonged, for, knowing that the Abbé's arrival would lead to inquiries which she had already found difficult to evade, it became a cause of embarrassment to her: she resolved, however, to act according to the dictates of honor and truth; and, should she be hardly pressed by questions, at once to declare her determination to persist in preserving her secret. She was prepared for the surprise and joy which Fleurville expressed at seeing her Highness at liberty, and so far from the scene of danger in which he had left her.

"Yes!" replied the Princess, "I have happily obtained my liberty: but the story of my escape is so long, and we have so few hours to devote to your society, that I must beg to defer the narrative of my adventures to another period. And now allow me to inquire what has detained you so long from your friends, for I see the Vicomte de Valmire is anxious to receive information on this subject."

The Abbé then replied in his usual calm manner, "When I was separated from your Highness by the soldiers of the King, between Dijon and Paris, I immediately repaired to the latter place, from whence I wrote several letters to the Vicomte, informing him of the situation in which I had left you, and begging that he would join me at Paris for the purpose of obtaining your liberation. For many weeks I waited in expectation of a reply; but,

receiving none, I was preparing to set off for Languedoc, when it happened that, being in company with a person belonging to that province, he informed me that the Vicomte was with his regiment at Joinville, where I proposed immediately to visit him: but some business of consequence to Valmire has detained me in Paris until the commencement of this week, when I began my journey to this place."

During this recital Mellidor was so wholly engrossed with the circumstance mentioned at the beginning of it, as to be perfectly indifferent to the conclusion of the speech; for he must now believe, from what the Abbé had said, that the Princess had been seised by order of the King, and had been thrown into prison, from which she was making her escape when he rescued her from the Cravates. And yet was she not going, without hesitation

or appearance of alarm, to put herself again in the power of the monarch, who had thus shown himself to be her greatest enemy? Her conduct appeared to him to be unaccountable, and yet he perceived that she studiously avoided every thing which could lead to a discussion on the subject. Mellidor became inattentive to all around him until he was aroused by Fleurville's inquiring if that young lady was his sister. Ashamed of his absence of mind, Mellidor now arose, and, leading Rosalie to the Abbé, told her to love and revere him as a parent. She gently bent her head while the Abbé placed his hand on it, imploring a blessing on the sister of his friend. She then fervently kissed his hand, and retired to her seat behind her brother, where she remained until she quitted the apartment, with Lemira, at an early hour to repair to rest. After their departure, the Abbé, to

Mellidor's great relief, began to discourse on the subject of the Princess; and, giving Mellidor an account of the arrest which had been the cause of their separation, his friend in return acquainted him with the manner of his saving her, and with her intention of setting off for Paris on the following day. They were lost in the wide ocean of conjecture, until at last, wearied with uncertainty, they retired to their beds to think and not to sleep.

At an early hour on the following morning, the Princess, Rosalie, and their attendants, took leave of Mellidor and the Abbé; and, with the hope of soon rejoining them at Paris, the separation was borne by all, not with indifference, but with fortitude.

No sooner had Flora facilitated

Lemira's escape by unfastening the linen, which had been the means of her descent, than she abandoned herself to all the distraction of sorrow, for the danger to which her loved lady was exposed, and yielded up her mind to regrets, at the want of courage, which had prevented her from following the Princess. Sleep did not visit her restless body; for the whole night she passed in recalling to her mind the hapless fate of all her friends; her father and brother perishing on a scaffold; her mother dying of grief; her sister wandering over the world in search of an inconstant husband; her only remaining brother, who had saved her from death, perishing in her arms; and now, to complete her misery, her protectress and benefactor lost to her for ever! These thoughts engrossed her until the hour when the stranger appeared, who found her sitting immove-

able, with her long fair hair streaming neglected over her shoulders, and her eyes fixed on the floor.

His entrance awoke her from her trance, but renewed with more violence the expression of her grief. She arose, clasped her hands together, and throwing herself on the ground, looked up into his face, as if supplicating for mercy, while her tears bedewed his feet.

Surprised at her extraordinary affliction, he addressed her in French, of which she now understood enough to comprehend that he inquired for the Princess. Unable to calm her agony sufficiently to allow her to speak, she, pointing to the window, induced him to think by this action, combined with her extreme misery, that Lemira had thrown herself into the river; and that he was at once

deprived of the object of his passion, and of the power of atonement for the injuries which he had occasioned to his heroic friend. For some moments he remained motionless, while all power of expression seemed to be lost in the concentrated feelings of his soul: but soon he started from this dumb eloquence of grief; and, suddenly recovering his faculties, struck his clenched hand on his head, and gave utterance to the wildest conflict of remorse, sorrow, and tenderness.

"O Lemira!" he exclaimed, "first and only object of my love! cradled in my arms, cherished by my affection, while, in the spotless years of infancy, you sportively gave me a brother's name and a brother's love; and, while I sought to implant in your mind the noblest principles and purest sentiments, little did you think that I was then inhaling the sweet

poison which has since consumed my peace; little did you think that your friend, your instructor and brother, would compel you to seek refuge from his persecuting passion in the dark waters of futurity! O heavens!" he added with increased disorder, "that the only friend and protector, whom your unhappy destiny has left you, should employ artifice and villany to entrap your unsuspicious innocence, and should reduce you to the necessity of procuring your liberty by death! Accursed be that passion," he added, franticly striking his breast, "which, by extinguishing every feeling of humanity and justice in my heart, has occasioned this fatal event." Then, falling on his knees, he cried, "Hear me, Heaven! if thou wilt listen to a sinner's prayer; hear me while I swear that should any miracle restore Lemira to life, never again to distress her by pleading my passion; never to

approach her but with the fraternal affection, to offer her protection and assistance, or to entreat her advice and consolation."

Rising from the ground, he turned, with sudden fury in his look, to Flora, whose grief had been suspended, to gaze on Charles's more violent distraction, and said, " How could you live and see the Princess of Lorraine resign herself to death?"

" I could not prevent, I dared not follow her," said Flora, while the tears again streamed down her cheek; until, observing that he was softened by her distress, she ventured to implore that he would comply with the last request of the Princess, and order a secure conveyance to be provided for her to the territory of France. The stranger calmed the troubled passions which shook his soul; and, summoning his

attendants, commanded them to procure immediately a proper escort of soldiers to conduct Flora to the French frontiers; whence one of his domestics was directed by him to accompany her to Paris.

" See," he authoritatively added, " that my order is punctually obeyed, and that this young person is duly and respectfully attended; for, if I receive any accounts of your insolence or incivility, your heads shall pay the penalty of your disobedience."

The soldiers heard and obeyed, and left the room accompanied by the trembling girl, who would have preferred staying in her prison to trusting herself to the power of a band of armed men. The stranger rushed to the window, and, unclosing the casement, he cried,

"Those dark waters have already closed over thy beauteous head, my Lemira, and I, the cruel author of the deed, still live to curse my existence, and to lament thy fate: but to a soldier death has a thousand doors, and hard will be my lot if I cannot effect an entrance at one of them: death then, or endless renown, from henceforth be my motto." So saying he darted from the room, assembled his troops, and from that day the name of "Invincible" was added to that of Charles of Lorraine!

NOTES.

(*a*) THE Princess Marguerite, sister to Charles the Fourth, and wife to Gaston, Duke of Orleans, remarkable for her beauty, her piety, and her misfortunes. Disguised in man's apparel she was conducted by her brother the Cardinal through the French lines. To effect this elopement, Francois employed a passport, which was given him by Louis, to secure his own safety during the negociations then pending between the hostile powers. When the fugitives had reached the first French guard they were arrested; but as the outpost was chiefly composed of persons of distinction, to whom the Cardinal was known, he was immediately released, and many apologies were offered for his temporary detention: and the Princess, who trembling with fear, had hidden herself under the shade of the silken curtains of the coach, now emerged from her concealment. As soon as the Lorraine Prince thought himself sufficiently distant from the enemy's camp to be safe from pursuit, he proceeded immediately to a wood, where he found a gentleman of the name of Bisëé, who

had provided fleet coursers, and a band of hunters well acquainted with the geography of the country. With this escort the Princess arrived that same day, after much fatigue and anxiety, at Thionville. In this town Marguerite passed some days to repair her exhausted strength; and then proceeded to Brussels, where she was received with joy by her husband, and the Spanish Princess, Claire Egenié.

(*b*) Henriette de Lorraine, eldestsister to Charles the Fourth, and married to the Prince de Phalsebourh. In common with the other members of this illustrious family she possessed great beauty and courage. During the siege of Nanci, which immediately followed the escape of the Princess Marguerite, Henriette fearlessly exposed herself on the ramparts to the cannon of the French; and, while she animated her soldiers by her example and advice, she prevented the governor from capitulating, when, actuated by his fears, he had resolved to yield the city into the hands of the besiegers. She exclaimed, that it would be better to be buried, after a glorious resistance, in the ruins of the capital of Lorraine, than ignobly to resign honor, wealth, and liberty.

(*c*) Claude was daughter to Duke Henri, and a younger sister of Nicoli, Charles the Fourth's first

consort. During the misfortunes of his brother, the Cardinal de Lorraine obtained a dispensation from the Pope, assumed the title of Duke Francois, and married his cousin the Princess Claude. The history of this beautiful but unfortunate couple, their sufferings and wonderful escapes, would occupy more space than can be bestowed on it in a note. They were confined by order of Louis in the city of Nanci, where, surrounded by a French guard, the King detained them in hopes that suffering and confinement would bend their noble spirits to his will, and would induce them to consent to a dissolution of their marriage. Claude's delicate person, however, contained a genuine Lorraine mind; and her affection for her husband made her firmly sustain captivity, or incur danger rather than submit to a separation from a man to whom duty and love equally attached her. The illustrious prisoners waited until the 1st of April, a day dedicated by the people of Lorraine to all sorts of innocent deceptions, before they attempted to escape from the power of their enemies. In the habit of a page, the Duchess joined her husband at the house of Burnet, his first gentleman of the chamber; and there finding Francois disguised as a street porter, with his fine hair cut off, she dressed herself anew as a poor peasant, and, carrying a basket on her head, she proceeded with the Duke, immediately on the opening of the gates,

into the open country. Having quitted the city in safety, and walked until the feet of the Princess, unaccustomed to the roughness of the roads, were wounded, the fugitives mounted the horses which were in readiness for them. As they passed through some fields contiguous to Nanci, a peasant recognised the Duke, and told his news to a soldier with whom he was acquainted. The soldier immediately gave notice of the escape of the noble captives to his officer, who only laughed at the intelligence, supposing that it was intended for one of those jokes practised on the 1st of April. After some time, however, had elapsed, he began to consider that it would be better to acquaint the Comte de Brissac, governor of Nanci, with the news which had been imparted to him; but when he mentioned the circumstance, he also expressed his belief that the story was a fabrication.

The Comte however, naturally timid and suspicious, sent an officer to the Duke's house, who was proceeding to knock at the door, when he was informed by the valet, a partaker of the secret, that the Prince and Princess were still asleep; and, unwilling to disturb their repose, the messenger civilly withdrew. At the command of the governor he, however, returned; and, having compelled the valet to open the door, he found his fears realized by the flight of the

noble captives. Pursuit had been delayed too long to render it of any use; and, after tremendous difficulties and fatigues, the Duke and Duchess arrived in safety at Florence, where they obtained protection from their aunt, who was grandmother to the reigning Duke of Tuscany.

(*d*) Ferdinand, son to Francois and Claude, whose sweet temper and amiable disposition induced his people to entertain hopes that under his mild administration they should enjoy the blessing of peace, so long a stranger to their unhappy country, was cut off at the age of eighteen by the consequences of a cruel operation: and Charles the Fifth, surnamed the Invincible, his younger brother, succeeded to the title of the Duke of Lorraine, though he could never recover his estates from the King of France. He married the Emperor Leopold's sister, and his descendants occupied the Imperial throne.

END OF VOL. II.

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